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O'Carolan College
Senior Cycle Options

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Introduction to Senior Cycle Options

Senior Cycle Options

O'Carolan College, Nobber, offers two different programmes to Senior Cycle students as follows:

Transition Year — This is an optional one-year programme for students who have completed the Junior Cert.

Leaving Cert. — There are two different two-year programmes for Leaving Cert. students.

a) Leaving Certificate Applied (L.C.A.).

b) Leaving Certificate Established.

These Leaving Cert. options cater for the different interests and abilities of the students in our care.

Options at Senior Cycle: Guidance and Advice

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

When choosing Options for Senior Cycle, students and parents should be advised of the following:

- All Subjects are the same for calculation of points for University/College entry, except for Higher Level Maths which carries an extra 25 bonus points.
- There are certain subjects essential for entry into particular courses, colleges and careers. These are extremely important.
- If your career plans require that you study specific subjects in the Leaving Certificate discuss this with your Guidance Counsellor.

- Third level colleges give the subject requirements necessary for entry into their college and courses in their prospectus. You can check these out online or call in to the drop-in guidance service at lunchtime to check them out with your Guidance Counsellor.

- Points for third level courses are calculated on your **best 6 subjects.**
- Do not lock yourself into a career or eliminate a career choice when choosing your subjects, keep your options open!
- Never pick a subject because you think it is easy if you do not enjoy it.
- Never choose a subject because of the teacher.
- Never choose subjects just because your friends are studying them.
- Pick subjects that you have enjoyed to date.
- Pick subjects that you have good results in.
- Ask your subject teacher for advice on the course content.
- Choose subjects that you are interested in so you will do well in them.
- Your first objective is to pick 6/7 subjects that will give you the highest possible grades.
- If you're unsure ASK! speak to your Guidance Counsellor, class tutor and subject teachers where relevant.

NEW POINTS SCALE

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

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

LCVP Grade	Points
Distinction	66
Merit	46
Pass	28

Essential subjects for certain courses

Matriculation and entry requirements vary for different courses.

It may be that a pass in the subject is all that is required. Sometimes a certain subject is required. Some courses require a combination of certain subjects/ levels/ grades e.g., *Primary School Teaching in Ireland requires H4 in Irish, H7/O4 English and Maths.*

NOTE: It is vital to check the entry requirements for courses you may be considering when choosing your subjects.

These will be outlined in the Subject Choice presentation given to all 3rd year and TY parents by the Guidance Counsellors and you can also check it out with the colleges themselves at our school career event or on the college websites.

Make sure to talk to your Guidance Counsellor (Ms. McCormack, or Ms McEvoy) if you are not sure.

In choosing your subjects you should also give consideration to the following issues.

- The requirement of a third language applies to a number of colleges. Therefore, French is a requirement if you wish to keep certain colleges as an option for you.

- Higher Maths is very demanding which is why it is allocated bonus points. In general, the school requires that you have achieved a Merit grade or higher in Junior Cycle higher level Maths's exam in order to be able to sit Higher level Maths in 5th year.

- Subjects such as Physics, Chemistry and Applied Maths require a high level of aptitude and interest in these areas.

- It has also been noted that extremely good grades have been achieved in the Home Economics, Art and Music and students seeking high points levels often overlook these.

- Students will study LCVP **if they qualify for it**. It is not only a valuable and interesting programme, but as an "eighth subject" is worth 70 points at distinction level. *(Equivalent to a Higher H4).*

- "Transition Year is a doss year and a waste of time!" How often have you heard this said? Yet research has shown conclusively that students who do Transition Year achieve 30/40 points more in Leaving Cert and are more successful at 3rd Level.

- Some students find the academic study of the traditional Leaving Cert very demanding but have ambitions to follow an apprenticeship or continue to PLC or third Level College at some stage. The Leaving Cert Applied may be the ideal alternative for these students!

- **Take your time in making these choices. It is important that student discuss their options with their Guidance Counsellor, teachers and family to ensure they make the right decisions.**

- **The decisions made now have a great impact on future decisions and it is extremely difficult to make changes once the subjects have been chosen and classes allocated.**

- **So, think about it carefully, talk about it and ask if you are not sure.**

Leaving Certificate Applied

The advantage of LCA 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 4 half-year blocks called Sessions and achievements are credited in each of these sessions.

Another advantage is that you work steadily over two years. One third of your final Leaving Cert results are based on the exam, one third is for seven tasks over the two years, and one third is for class-based assignments and attendance.

What is the Leaving Certificate Applied?

- It is a distinct self-contained two-year Leaving Certificate programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life.
- It emphasises many forms of achievement which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past.
- It helps you to communicate better and make decisions.
- It lets you use your knowledge and skills to solve real problems.

Benefits:

1) self-confidence and self-responsibility.
2) develops communication and decision-making skills.
3) prepares students very well for work experience.

Assessment:

The final grade is: 35% task work/31% ongoing credits/34% final exams.
The LCA is marked as Pass (60%), Merit (70%) and Distinction (85%).
Pass on LCA = 6 D's on Established Leaving Cert.

Subjects Offered:

Vocational Preparation:

English and Communication, Vocational Preparation and Guidance.

Vocational Education:

Mathematical Applications, Graphics & Construction Studies, Information Technology.

***General Education*:**

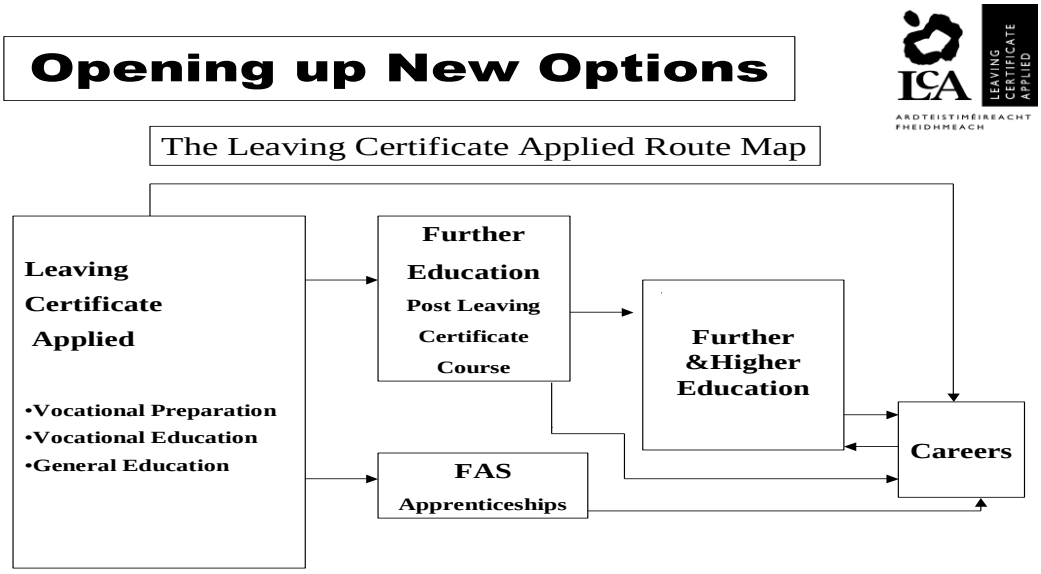
Social Education, Irish/German/French, Leisure and Recreation, Office and Admin.

Electives:

Visual Art, Engineering, Hotel Catering and Tourism, Childcare/Community Care.

This programme is subject to change.

Progression from the LCA Programme



Destination of students nationally:

38% Employment, 22% PLC Courses, 19% Apprenticeships, 12% Other Courses.
Our students: PLC courses, Apprenticeships, Employment.

Further Education:

1. Post Leaving Cert Courses (FETAC Level 5)) and then Institutes of Technology. (Links scheme leads to degrees in Nursing, Computers, Social Care, Business, etc.)
2. Teagasc, Cert, FAS, Marketing, Accounting, etc.
3. On the Job Training through the Garda, Banks and Childcare positions etc.

Student comments:

"Teachers, schools and the education system could learn a lot from the LCA."
"Gave me confidence."
"You learn to work on your own and through groups."
"LCA gave me the incentive to work in school."
"Great relaxed interaction between students and teachers."
"Two thirds of my results are in before I have my final exams, it's a lot less pressure."

Transition Year

The Transition Year Programme promotes the ***personal, social, vocational and educational development of students and prepares them for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society*****.....**Transition Year Guidelines,1994, Department of Education.

The Transition Year is an activity based self-directed programme, which entails learning both inside and outside the classroom. Students, who are self-motivated can work hard and adapt well to new learning experiences and do particularly well at portfolio work. The course encourages maturity, development of new skills and education for college and working life. Transition Year students tend to become more self-reliant learners.

TY is a unique one-year programme for students who have completed the Junior Certificate. It provides a bridge to enable them to make the transition from the more dependent type of learning associated with the Junior Certificate to the more independent learning environment associated with the Leaving Certificate. It encourages personal and social development and recognises the need for students to grow in independence.

Transition Year fosters academic achievements as students prepare for a Leaving Certificate programme, further study and adult and working life. It encourages the development of a wide range of transferable critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills. Transition Year offers students space to learn, mature and develop.

*The Transition year offers a broad variety of learning experiences inside and outside the classroom.

*Students are encouraged to see TY as providing opportunities to discover personal strengths and to develop their potential.

*Transition Year facilitates young people to become familiar with adult and working life through the provision of work experience and career guidance workshops.

*In addition to traditional style homework, TY students are also asked to undertake projects, assignments, interviews, competitions, volunteering work and research.

Subjects Offered in Transition Year

Core Subjects:

ENGLISH IRISH MATHS FRENCH

Subject Sampling Layer:

- METALWORK
- DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION
- WOOD TECHNOLOGY
- AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE
- ICT
- CPR TRAINING AND ROAD SAFETY
- CAREERS / PREPARATION FOR THE WORLD OF WORK
- APPLIED MATHS
- BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AND ACCOUNTING
- HERITAGE STUDIES/POLITICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS
- COMMUNITY AND CHARITY WORK
- MENTORING AND LEADERSHIP COURSES
- SPANISH
- MINDFULNESS
- PODCASTING
- CODING AND ROBOTICS
- ART
- CSI FORENSIC SCIENCE
- ENGLISH AND MEDIA
- FOOD SCIENCE/ COOKING
- GAISCE AWARD
- MUSIC
- BIOLOGY/HORTICULTURE
- CHEMISTRY
- PHYSICS
- MINI COMPANY
- LAW
- SPORTS SCIENCE
- MUSICAL THEATRE
- P.E. AND COACHING
- S.P.H.E.

Transition Year Specific Modules:
Work Experience (3 weeks in total) (Lottery for Law Society and Bar of Ireland work experience, Royal College of Surgeons, CONCERN, DELL, Microsoft, SOAR etc).
JIGSAW Ambassador training
Mentoring first year students' programme
Rubbish Film Festival Short Film Making
Robotics – DKIT VEX Robotics Competition
Teaching students with SEN in our ASD Centre
TY Musical Show – This year 'Don't give me Lip!' Lip SYNC Battle.
Bank of Ireland School Bank
HSE Oral Tooth kind Programme (teaching to first years)
LIFT (Leading Irelands Future Together) Training
GAA Coaching Award and Basketball Ireland Coaching Award
Inclusion in Sport coaching Award

Sample T.Y. Activities

- VIKING SPLASH DUBLIN / GO QUEST DUBLIN – INDUCTION TRIP
- TEAM BUILDING DAY WITH FIRST YEARS (INFLATABLES)
- MENTORING PROGRAMME
- NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS
- YSI WEEKS – SPEAKERS FROM FOCUS IRELAND, MARIE KEATING FOUNDATION, GUIDEDOGS FOR THE BLIND, CONCERN, RSA ETC
- PERSONAL SAFETY IRELAND
- IRISH ORAL WORKSHOP – HIGH ROCK PRODUCTIONS
- LAW TRIP TO CRIMINAL COURTS – MOCK TRIALS
- TINPOT RADIO PRODUCTIONS
- MICROSOFT HQ – 3 HOUR WORKSHOP DREAMWORKS
- ZEMINAR
- 'DEVELOP ME' TEAMWORK WORKSHOP
- POETRY SLAM BY STEHEN MURRAY
- PUBLIC SPEAKING WORKSHOP WITH ALAN DEVINE
- MOVIE MAGIC – RTE DIRECTORS/PRODUCERS
- ICE SKATING AT CHRISTMAS
- BALLYMUN REDISCOVERY CENTRE (DEVELOPMENT ED)
- CSI EXPERIENCE
- DELL SPEAKER – JOBS IN ICT
- SHANE CARTHY (DUBLIN GAA) TALK ON MENTAL HEALTH
- DRIVING SCHOOL DAY
- GASICE 1 OR 2 OVERNIGHT TRIP – 25K HIKE AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

(This Programme is subject to change)

Who is Transition Year for?

- Students with a genuine interest in tasting a whole range of subjects that will help in choosing senior cycle subjects and a career area.
- Students who want to become better equipped to cope with the self-reliant learning of third level education.
- Students who want the challenge of work experience and the leadership opportunities that exist in Transition Year.
- Students who are self-motivated, positive and willing to work hard.
- Students who may feel that they are too young for Leaving Certificate and want to develop personally, socially and grow in confidence.

Short Term Goals:

- Broad educational experience that encourages self-confidence and responsibility.
- Develop communication and decision-making skills.
- Work experience, three weeks a year provides students with an insight into the world of the world and the responsibilities that come with it.
- Helps students choose 5th Year subjects and provide an extra year to mature and develop.

Long Term Goals:

- TY students have been shown in studies (ESRI) to perform better in their Leaving Cert results.
- Students who do Transition Year are better equipped for 3rd Level.
- TY students are less likely to drop out at the end of first year in college.
- TY students are capable of independent learning and study.
- They have a more informed approach to eventually choosing a career area.
- They develop interpersonal skills to become part of a team in a workplace.

<u>Opportunities:</u>

- There are many trips and educational events in TY Year.
- Students have a great opportunity to take part in extra-curricular activities and feature in our annual Musical and Dance Show.
- There are many opportunities for leadership and organisational experiences and training. It is definitely a chance to broaden your vision.

Leaving Certificate Established

Subject Choice

At Leaving Cert. examination level, students' study seven subjects. For state examinations, they study:

a) Irish, English, Maths and French (the core/compulsory subjects)

b) and three *other subjects* of their choosing (options).

Choosing subjects for the *Leaving Cert*. programme is a simple exercise and a very important one. Base your choice on the following guidelines:

a) **You must have a keen interest in the subject.**
If your talent is in the area of science, choose one or two Science subjects. The same applies for subjects in the languages, social studies, business studies and applied science groupings. (See Chart below)

b) **You should choose subjects that give you the best chance of achieving high grades.**

***REMEMBER:* You must choose three option subjects to study along with the core/compulsory subjects of Irish, English, Maths and French.**

Leaving Certificate Subjects

Leaving Certificate Subjects are grouped as follows:
(Please note that it is possible to choose more than one subject from each group area.)

Language Group: ***Compulsory: Irish, English French***	***Science Group:*** ***Compulsory: Project Mathematics*** Options: Applied Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Agricultural Science.
Social Studies Group: Art, Music, Geography, History, Society and Politics.	***Business Studies Group:*** Accounting, Business.
Applied Science Group: Engineering, Construction Studies, Home Economics (Social & Scientific), Design & Communication Graphics.	
LCVP where applicable	

Core Subjects

Leaving Cert. Gaeilge

Standard Leaving Cert Gaeilge can be studied at Higher and Ordinary Level.

Higher and Ordinary Level Gaeilge has 4 sections Oral, Aural (listening), Paper 1(Language Paper) and Paper II (Literature Paper)

The Oral is currently 40% of the Leaving Cert. Exam. The Aural exam is worth 10% for Higher Level and Ordinary Level. Consequently, a trip to the Gaeltacht for senior students is strongly advised. Gaeltacht scholarships are provided at O'Carolan College by means of ongoing fundraising by the Irish Department and funding from Louth Meath Educational and Training Board.

Irish is also offered as part of the Leaving Cert. Applied Programme.

"Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam!"

Leaving Cert. English

Leaving Cert. English can be studied at Higher and Ordinary Level. It is divided into two sections Language (Paper 1) and Literature (Paper 2).

Language: Language in a wide variety of contexts, genres, functions, and styles are studied. Five different sections, (Language of Narration, Language of Argument, Language of Information, Language of Persuasion, and the Aesthetic Use of Language) are covered on the curriculum.

Literature: From a prescribed list of texts, students' study four texts in the following manner:
One text studied on its own. (The Single Text) (Higher and Ordinary)
A comparative study of three texts; the emphasis in this study area is on attitude, values, structures, and styles. (Two texts at Ordinary)
Study of a Shakespearean play is compulsory at Higher Level.

Poetry: A prescribed list of poems and poets are set by the Department of Education each year. In all, students are expected to study at least six poems by a minimum of five poets at higher level.

Paper One tests the comprehension and composing skills of the student. Paper Two examines the students' knowledge of a prescribed list of texts and poets.

Leaving Cert. Maths

Being a core subject Maths is studied by all students in the senior cycle with dedicated higher and ordinary level classes being offered in both 5th and 6th year. The level at which you wish to study this subject must be given careful consideration at this stage bearing in mind the affinity for the subject and your future career hopes. Many degree courses in Science, Engineering and IT require applicants to have a minimum standard of H4 in Project Maths. As this an important choice advice is available if needed.

Careers with Maths: Actuarial Sciences, Investment Sciences, Management Sciences, Information Technology, Computer Science, Imaging, Animation, Optics, Robotics, Medical

Professions: Communication Systems, Coding, Cryptography, Statistician to list but a few.

Bonus Points: The higher education institutions have introduced a bonus scheme for Higher Level Leaving Certificate Project Maths whereby, an additional 25 points will be added to an applicant's points score. However, bonus points are only added to a grade of H6 (40%-50%) or higher. This means that a H6 will equal 71 points (46+25), and a H1 will equal 125 points.

Leaving Cert. French

The French syllabus for Leaving Certificate is divided into three broad categories: Language Awareness, Basic Communicative Proficiency and Cultural Awareness.

During fifth and sixth year, students' knowledge of topics developed at Junior Certificate is deepened through the continued exploration of these areas at Leaving Cert. In senior cycle French, students develop their understanding and application of the grammatical system. They learn to manipulate the target language accurately to organize facts and ideas, and to present explanations, opinions and information in both speech and writing.

The oral exam comprises of general conversation questions and the presentation of a 'document'. Like the JC, students sit a mock oral exam in March and the Leaving Certificate oral exam takes place in April.
The breakdown of the Leaving Certificate exam is as follows:

LEAVING CERTIFICATE	HIGHER	ORDINARY
Oral	25%	20%
Aural	20%	25%
Reading	30%	40%
Written	25%	15%

Some interesting facts to note:

- 28 countries use French as their official language.
- France is the world's leader in the production of luxury goods.
- More tourists visit France than any other country in the world.
- The French are a world leader in medical research.
- France is a major world research center in the field of high energy physics.
- France is the European leader in aerospace.
- France is the fourth largest producer of cars in the world (Renault, Peugeot, Citroën) and the third largest exporter.

Science Group

Applied Mathematics

What is Applied Maths?

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.

There is a common misconception that Applied Maths is a harder and more advanced version of regular Maths. This is not the case. Applied Maths, or

‘mathematical physics, as it is sometimes known, is all about applying mathematics to physics’ problems. Applied Maths is about problem solving and appeals to people who enjoy applying their knowledge to specific tasks.

Anyone taking the course does need to have a strong grasp of Maths and would need to be studying Higher Level Maths. It is how the mathematical knowledge is used that makes Applied Maths different. As well as having a very good mathematical ability, you will also need to be good at solving logic problems. Spotting clues in a question and working out how to use the clue to solve the problem. The Maths only comes in, once you have worked out what logical approach you will need to take. If you enjoy Maths and have a good logical brain, then this is the subject for you!

The course essentially covers the mathematics behind the behaviour of objects when placed in various situations, such as being thrown as projectiles, bounced off walls or other objects, immersed in fluids, or swung around on a rope. There are 10 questions on the exam paper, each covering one of these topics in detail. However, the exam only requires the student to complete six questions, so it is common for the teacher to focus on six or seven topics, which makes the course and workload more manageable.

The course tends to avoid theory-heavy questions (such as proofs and manipulating formulae) which are found on the mathematics paper, instead offering practical problems with numerical solutions. As a result, Applied Maths is excellent for developing strong problem-solving skills, which are essential in the Leaving Cert Maths course, as well as being very valuable for future employment.

There is a new Applied Maths specification which is due to be introduced in September 2021, it will require students to complete a project which will be worth 20% and subsequently, the written exam will be worth 80%. This will make the subject even more accessible to students and decreases the workload required for exam prep. This new specification also removes 3 of the more difficult topics and replaces them with Network and Graphing which can be used to investigate a wide range of real-life problems.

What kind of student might Applied Maths suit?

- This subject comes highly recommended for students considering a career in any area of Engineering, Science, Information Technology, Business, Finance, Architecture or Education.

- Students who are studying Leaving Cert. Higher Maths. This course also helps students studying Physics, due to some overlap in the course content.
- Students who need high entry points to get into university. On average over the past 3 years, **29%** of the roughly 1300 students who sat the higher-level examination each year received a grade A1 or A2. Aside from niche languages such as Latin, Russian, and Japanese, this means that Applied Maths has the **highest A percentage (H1-H2)** in the Leaving Cert.

Why might you choose Applied Maths?

- If you are getting A or B grades in Maths and Physics, you should be capable of getting similar grades in Applied Maths thus enabling you to increase your points in the Leaving Cert.
- There is an 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 you have a deeper understanding of these topics in Physics.
- As there is a high Maths content in the course it will also give you a better understanding of some parts of the Honours Maths course – especially Trigonometry and Integration. It is ideal for students who may be weak at other subjects (such as languages) and good at Maths as they can do honours Applied Maths to increase their points.
- If you are considering studying any kind of engineering in college, Applied Maths is very important – all engineering students have to study Applied Maths in their first year in college and you will have a head start if you have the Leaving Cert course done.

Chemistry

What is Chemistry?
Chemistry is the branch of science concerned with the structure and composition of the various substances that make up the world around us and the changing of one substance to another.

Who is it suitable for?
Students who studied higher level science at Junior Cert with an active interest and enthusiasm for the subject. Higher level maths is not a requirement but is

an advantage for the maths related questions on the leaving certificate chemistry paper.

Career prospects?
A comprehensive understanding of the principles and processes of chemistry is vital for careers in medicine, nursing, veterinary, dentistry, engineering, microelectronics, agriculture and pharmacology. At 3rd level, all science degrees include chemistry modules in 1st year so prior knowledge is a distinct advantage.

What topics are studied in chemistry?
Topics studied include organic chemistry, environmental chemistry, history of the atom and the periodic table, volumetric analysis, radioactivity and chemical bonding.

Assessment
100% based on written exam. Section A is based on the mandatory experiments (28) and section B on remaining course content (theory/problem solving).

Physics

Physics is a subject that branches into every part of our everyday lives. From understanding the nature of the smallest particles to structure origins of the Universe, Physics studies all manner of phenomena from the smallest to the biggest scales we can observe.

Students who undertake this subject spend two years developing a conceptual based understanding of the topics mentioned, using Inquiry Based Learning (IBL). This method makes the classes more student centred and allows them to take ownership of their own learning.

Students also learn to complete an appropriate level of mathematical treatment of the concepts covered. This treatment is to the level of Junior Certificate Higher Level Maths, and it would be envisioned that most students have completed this course, in addition to Higher Level Junior Certificate Science. If you have an enquiring mind, enjoy challenges and have good mathematical ability and good observational skills then *Physics* is certainly for you.

Topics covered include: *Optics, Mechanics, Thermodynamics, Electricity, Magnetism, Semiconductors, Nuclear Energy and Particle Physics.*

Biology

What is Biology?

Biology is the science of life. It is concerned with the characteristics and behaviours of organisms, how species and individuals come into existence, and the interactions they have with each other and with their environment.

What topics are studied?

The Biology course involves a study of the following:

* Anatomy and physiology-overall structure and function of organisms

* Cytology-study of cells

* Ecology-Living things and their environment

* Microbiology-Small living things

* Genetics-Study of inheritance

Who is it suitable for?

It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Biology has a good grasp of the biology aspect of junior cert science. The student must have an aptitude and interest for lab work.

What are the career prospects?

Agriculture, Agricultural Research, Animal Breeder, Animal Trainer, Ambulance Driver, Audiologist, Biochemist, Biologist, Biology Teacher, Catering superintendent, Chiropodist, Conservation Work, Dental Craftsperson, Dairy Scientist, Dental Hygienist or Nurse, Dentist, Dietician, Doctor, Environmental Scientist, Farmer, Fisheries, Food Scientist, Forester, Forestry Inspector, Geneticist, Health Inspector, Horticulturalist, Microbiologist, Nurse, Pharmacist or Technician, Physiotherapist, Psychologist, Radiographer, Seed Analyst, Serological Assistant, Speech Therapist, Veterinary Surgeon or Nurse, Zookeeper, Zoologist, Oceanographer.

Assessment

100% based on written exam. Section A are short questions, Section B are based on experiments and Section C are more detailed questions based on the syllabus.

Agricultural Science

Agricultural Science is the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture. The subject aims to contribute to pupils' general education through their involvement in the process of scientific investigation and the acquisition of Agricultural knowledge and understanding.

What do you study?

Topics covered on the course include the following:
Soil Science
Plant Science
Animal science
Crop production
Animal production (Beef, Dairy, Sheep, Pigs)
Genetics
Agriculture and the Environment

How is it assessed?

The Examination is based on a written and practical exam where marks are allocated as follows:
Written exam – 75% (300 marks)
Practical exam – 25% (100 marks, based on student's contribution & includes:
Project work (35)
Oral assessment (20)
Practical/Lab investigations (45)

The practical work is supervised and graded by the class teacher and then submitted for the external examiner who visits the school and interviews a number of pupils on the day of the practical exam. This is a great opportunity for pupils to showcase their work and discuss their agricultural experience with the examiner. It is the only science subject at Leaving Certificate which allows pupils to gain marks for practical work. Pupils also visit a Livestock Farm during the course which they thoroughly enjoy as they can observe in practice what they learn in theory.

Who is it suitable for?
Agricultural science is suited to pupils from a farming background or those who have a great interest in farming and environmental issues and wish to develop their knowledge further. It also suits pupils who wish to undertake a science subject which may be a requirement for their future third level studies.

Career prospects?
There are a broad range of careers in Agriculture ranging from Veterinary Surgeon, Agricultural adviser, Environmentalist, Horticulturist, Botany, Crop adviser, Teaching, Animal breeder, AI technician, Agribusiness and sales and Forestry to name but a few.

Social Studies Group

Music

The Leaving Certificate Music syllabus provides continuity and progression from Junior Certificate Music. The general aims and overall shape of both courses are broadly similar. In providing the musical knowledge, understanding, practical competencies and attitudes appropriate to their age, abilities and interests, the syllabus caters for the varying needs of all students including those who wish to pursue further studies in music.

The syllabus structure has been adopted to provide a fully balanced musical experience central to which is the development of musicality. Studying music at Leaving Cert. provides a vital basis for further education in the area.

Note: Students need not have studied music at Junior Level; however, they should have attained a competency in their practical musical ability. 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.

Structure of the Course:

The structure of the Leaving Certificate syllabus follows the Junior Certificate with 3 essential activities.

1. Performing

2. Composing
3. Listening

Each activity is allocated a 25% weighting. The remaining 25% can be chosen from section 1, 2 or 3.

For example, a student may choose:

25% Composing 25% Listening 50% (25% & 25%) Performing.

This allows Ordinary and Higher-level students to gain up to 50% of the total marks in the musical activity that best suits their talent.

Subject Content:

Performing:

Students can sing or play an instrument, solo or in a group setting. Students can also choose Music Technology as an option along with singing or playing. This involves inputting, saving, and editing music data via electronic equipment.

Composing:

Students will learn the skills to answering harmony and melody writing questions.

Listening:

Students will study Irish Music and four prescribed set works. They will also develop their aural skills.

Geography

There has never been a better or more important time to study geography. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, Geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study.

The Leaving Certificate Geography programme combines student skills of **research, analysis, and development** in relation to many of the world's most fundamental issues, past, present and future.

The overall aim is to attempt to open a student's mind to why our human and physical environments and landscapes appear as they are, how they form and operate, and how they inter-relate. Leaving Cert Geography students will study the most pressing issues which face the world today, e.g., **overpopulation, mass urbanisation, resource depletion, global warming, and international debt, etc**. It also allows the student to actually practice some of the basic skills, e.g., Map - reading, photograph analysis, project work and field work collection, arrangement and analysis, which are learned at Junior Certificate level; skills which can be carried into college life and the workplace.

The Leaving Certificate Examination is worth 80% of the total mark with 20% going for fieldwork.

The Leaving Certificate Geography Programme can be summarised as:
Core: Physical Geography, Regional Geography.
Elective: Economic Geography or Human Geography.
Options: Geo ecology, Interdependence, Culture/Identity, or Atmosphere

It is worth noting that TCD currently accepts Geography as a science subject for entry into the science faculty.

History

Senior Cycle *History* explores the Later Modern period from 1815 to 1993 in an Irish, European and World context. It is an extremely interesting and challenging course that will enable students to understand the contemporary world.

The principle of LC History is to have an enquiry-based approach, using primary and secondary sources, enabling the student to become the historian.
At present the topics studied within the syllabus can be summarised as follows:

Irish History 1912-1993

1. Pursuit of Sovereignty and the Impact of Partition, 1912-1949
2. Northern Ireland, 1949 - 1993

History of Europe and the Wider World, 1920-1989

1. Dictatorship and Democracy 1920-1945
2. U.S.A. and the Wider World,1945-1989

Students also undertake an individual research study (RSR), which involves the study of a subject with historical significance chosen by the student, under the direction of the teacher. Students develop skills in research, analysis, evaluation, synthesis and essay writing. There is a range of suitable texts in the school's history resource library.

The research study is pre-submitted before their final examination and worth up to 20% of overall result. 89% of students who submit an RSR receive H1/H2 grade on it.

Career relevance
History gives students many insights into human behaviour and a deeper understanding of current affairs that is relevant to many careers. History also develops an ability to think independently without jumping to unsupported conclusions. Employers tend to look for people who are independent thinkers, open-minded, disciplined, good at problem solving and able to pick out the essential from the trivial. The highly respected UK 'Which?' magazine wrote about history as follows: "historians are regarded as having had an education that trains their minds to assemble, organise and present facts and opinions and this is a very useful quality in many walks of life and careers…history is an excellent preparation for very many other jobs".

Possible Career Opportunities

Journalist	Antique Dealer / Valuer	Historical Researcher
Tour Guide	Exhibitions Manager	Arts Administrator
Archivist	Archaeologist	Genealogist
Heritage Officer	Museum Curator	Librarian
Information Officer		

Art

The Leaving Certificate Art curriculum. has been reviewed in recent years. The new specification is presented in three strands: Research, Create and Respond.

The three interlinked and interdependent strands of **Research, Create and Respond** also serve to signify the importance of the symbiotic relationship between the learner, the practical work with which they are involved and their understanding of the place of, and emphasis on, Visual Studies within their work.

-There are three assessment components in Leaving Certificate Art

- Practical coursework (Booklet and 1 Artefact)
- An invigilated examination (Craft)
- A written examination (Visual Studies)

Assessment Component	**Weighting**	**Level**
Practical coursework	50%	Higher and Ordinary
Invigilated Examination	20%	Higher and Ordinary
Written examination	30%	Higher and Ordinary

The Practical coursework will be covered in a specified period between January and March each year. This project involves filling a workbook with exploration and developmental artwork, culminating in the design and execution of two Artefacts. The emphasis is on using primary sources for these projects.

Will this subject suit me?

It is strongly advised that students will have completed Junior Cycle Art in order to study Art at Leaving Certificate Standard. If you have an investigative mind, and use creative ways to solve problems, this course is for you. If you 'think outside the box' and use visualization and imagery to communicate your ideas, then Art is for you.

This course involves brainstorming for original ideas and looking at everyday things from a different perspective.

CAREERS IN ART & DESIGN

CAREER	FINE ART	ARCHITECTURE	GRAPHIC DESIGN
WHAT THEY DO	Create art they want to create.	Design large constructions.	Use digital media (computers) to manipulate words and images on 2D surfaces.
EXAMPLES	Sculpture, Painting, Drawing...	School, House, Prison, Bridge, Stadium...	CD Cover, Book Cover, Website, Logo, Magazine...
JOBS	Fine Artist, Sculptor, Painter....	Architect	Graphic Designer, Web Designer...
CAREER	**INDUSTRIAL DESIGN**	**INTERIOR DESIGN**	**PHOTOGRAPHY**
WHAT THEY DO	Design 3D objects that are to be used.	Design the way things look inside of a space.	Take still pictures with a camera.
EXAMPLES	Car, Toothbrush, Furniture, Shoe...	Living room, museum, office building (inside)...	Magazine Cover, Newspaper...
JOBS	Industrial Designer, Product Designer, Package Designer...	Home Interior Designer, Office Interior Designer...	Fashion Photographer, Sports Photographer...
CAREER	**ANIMATION**	**ILLUSTRATION**	**ART EDUCATION**
WHAT THEY DO	Create moving cartoons.	Create images that go with words.	Instruct others about art.
EXAMPLES	Disney Movies, Special Effects...	Book Illustration, Magazine Illustration...	
JOBS	Animator, Computer Animator	Illustrator, Cartoonist...	Museum Curator, Art Teacher...
CAREER	**GAME DESIGN**	**FASHION DESIGN**	**LANDSCAPE DESIGN**
WHAT THEY DO	Design interactive on-screen games.	Design things to wear.	Design the layout of outdoor areas.
EXAMPLES	Computer games, X-Box games...	Jackets, Jewelry, Dresses, Hats...	Parks, Theme Parks, Highways
JOBS	Game Designer...	Fashion Designer...	Landscape Designer, Landscape Architect...

POLITICS AND SOCIETY

Politics and Society is a new course open to Leaving Certificate students at O'Carolan College. The subject aims to inform students about how social and political institutions work at local (school and community), national, and global levels. It also aims to develop critical thinking skills whilst encouraging active citizenship.

What will I learn in Politics and Society?

Few subjects are as relevant to our everyday lives as Politics and Society. Among other things, students will learn about the social systems within which people act locally, nationally and more widely, different systems of government and the roles of groups such as multinational companies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and intergovernmental bodies in shaping the world we live in. Teachers and students will work with key themes and ideas in the social and political sciences. They will apply these to their schools, to the local environment, as well as exploring how they apply in the wider world.

The course covers the following topics:

TOPIC 1 Power and decision making in schools.

TOPIC 2 Power and decision making at national and European level.

TOPIC 3 Effectively contributing to communities.

TOPIC 4 Rights and responsibilities in communicating with others.

TOPIC 5 Human rights and responsibilities in Ireland

TOPIC 6 Human rights and responsibilities in Europe and the wider world

TOPIC 7 Globalisation and identity

TOPIC 8 Sustainable development

How will I learn?

Students will learn about social and political theories and how these theories relate to current issues. There will be lots of classroom discussion, debate and reflection on the different ideas and perspectives. Through this, students will develop valuable analytical and evaluation skills as they debate topical and sometimes controversial issues, study different viewpoints and form their own political opinions.

How does Politics and Society relate to other subjects?

Some of the learning in Politics and Society will be useful if you also study Geography and History for the Leaving Certificate.

How will it be Assessed? Politics and Society is assessed at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level. There are two assessment components at each level – a written examination which accounts for 80% of the final grade and a citizenship project which accounts for 20%. The citizenship project enables pupils to research a topic and take an active citizenship action based on their research. In their report pupils describe their action and reflect on their role as an active citizen in light of their studies. How will it be useful to me later? Politics and Society will prove beneficial to students who pursue further study in the areas of the social sciences, humanities, or law. It may be particularly useful to specific courses in the areas of politics, history, sociology, law, anthropology, philosophy, media studies, development studies, and many more. The skills of critical thinking and active citizenship as developed through this subject are becoming increasingly essential and relevant to everyday life as well as to future studies.

Will this subject suit me?

Politics and Society is a challenging and rewarding subject that suits any student who is interested in human rights, equality, diversity, sustainable development, power and democratic decision-making. If you want to become a more informed and active global citizen, then this subject will be of interest to you. Studying Politics and Society gives students a real insight into people, power and how society works.

Business Studies

Business

In Brief

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 also 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.

Why study Business?

Business is not specifically required for entry into any third level course, but it would certainly be beneficial for candidates who might be interested in courses or careers in the area of finance, enterprise, law, and communications.

What kind of student would suit Business?

Business will suit a candidate who is interested in current affairs and listens to the news, reads the papers and stays alert to what is happening in the general business world. While there is a fair share of learning of key concepts, the ability to apply these concepts in everyday life will be the difference between passing the subject and getting a good mark. While the business concepts are easy to understand, it will be important that you can show that you can apply the concept to everyday business life. This subject suits someone who has an organised mind and likes to answer questions in bullet points not in long essay format. This subject would be useful to anyone thinking of starting his or her own business in the future.

Subject Content

- This subject is concerned with understanding the environment in which business operates in Ireland and in the wider world. It also involves equipping the students with a positive view of enterprise and its applications in the business environment, in both the public and private sectors.

- There are 7 core units covering the following topics: Introduction to people in business; Enterprise; Managing 1 & 2; Business in action; Domestic Environment and International Environment.
- There is a common syllabus covering Higher and Ordinary level.
- A flexibility of design that caters for present day Irish business education and yet is capable of adaptation to future developments in a structured and efficient way.
- It assists students to develop their education for adult and working life including the creation of positive attitudes towards self-employment.
- From time to time there may be field trips or guest speakers where the course allows. These are not a compulsory part of the course and are organised at the teachers' discretion.

Exam Structure - Higher & Ordinary Level

Higher Level – 3-hour paper (400 marks) 3 sections.	**Ordinary Level – 2.5-hour paper (400 marks) 2 sections.**
Section 1 – 8 Short questions (80marks). Section 2 – Applied Business Question (80marks). Section 3 – 4 Long Questions (240 marks).	Section 1 – 10 Short Question (100marks). Section 2 – 4 Long Questions (300 marks)

Career Possibilities

Business is useful for careers in areas such as Banking, Administration, Insurance, Management and Marketing.

Applied Science Group

Home Economics - Social and Scientific

Senior cycle Home Economics is a continuation and extension of the Junior Cycle course. The syllabus consists of a core and three electives. The core comprises of three areas: Food Studies (45%), Resource management and Consumer Studies (25%) and Social Studies (10%). There are three electives: (1) Home Design and Management, (2) Textiles, Fashion and Design and (3) Social Studies. The teacher and the class group must choose one elective to study

which is 20% of the course. The electives are extensions of content contained in the core and provide students with the opportunity to study certain topics in more depth.

Practical work is viewed as an integral component of the subject. Students are required to complete four Food Studies assignments. A record of each assignment is documented in a course work journal. This is assessed by the Department of Education as part of the subject and is combined with the final written examination for the subject grade. It is worth 20% of the overall grade.

Career Opportunities from Social and Scientific include: Promotional and Educational opportunities; Food and Nutritional Sciences; Food technology/Analysis; Environmental Health; Human Nutrition and Dietetics; Hotel Catering opportunities; Textile Studies/Interior Design; Marketing/Retailing/Advertising.

It is possible to do Social and Scientific as a Leaving Cert. subject without having done Home Economics at Junior Cycle. Although Home Economics is not a laboratory science subject, it does satisfy the entrance requirement for many beauty therapy courses.

Construction Studies

Construction Studies introduces students to the knowledge and skills associated with construction technology and construction materials and practices. This is achieved through theoretical study and integrated practical projects which provide a basis for the thorough exploration of materials and processes.

This subject gives students a firm grounding in all the main principles of construction including:

Part I - Construction Theory and Drawing (50%)

- General principles
- Substructure
- Superstructure
- Internal construction
- Services and external works
- Heat and thermal effects in buildings

- Illumination in buildings
- Sound in buildings

Part II - Practical Skills (25%)

- Tools
- Processes

Part III - Course Work and Projects (25%)

- Workshop/laboratory experiments
- Student projects under one of the following four topics: Furniture Production, Heritage Buildings, Construction Technology, New Technologies

It is envisaged that students would have studied Junior Cycle Wood Technology; however, this is not an essential requirement for a well-focused student.

Professional Courses

- Architecture
- Engineering (Civil, Structural, Building services)
- Construction Economics (Quantity Surveying)
- Property Economics (Valuation Surveying)
- Product Design
- Furniture Manufacture
- Construction Management
- Wood Science
- Construction Studies /Technical Graphics Teaching
- Geomatics (Surveying)
- Urban Planning
- Technician Courses and all the professional trades related to the Construction Industry: such as Cabinet maker, Carpenter/Joiner, Fitter, Plasterer, Plumber and many more.

Engineering

General Aims
Engineering represents a study of a wide range of mechanical engineering materials, processes and technological applications.

It aims to promote an educational knowledge of the materials; an understanding of the processes; ability to safely use the skills and tools to achieve objectives through practical work; show initiative in the planning and development of technological projects.

Syllabus and Examination Structure
The syllabus is presented in two sections.

1. Workshop Processes: This section represents all the practical processes that may be applied in the school workshop together with related theory. This section carries 300 marks in the Leaving Cert. examination at both ordinary and higher levels. There are 150 marks allocated for a design project and 150 marks for a practical examination.

2. Materials and Technology: This section represents the theoretical knowledge of the practices and processes involved. The written examination in this section carries 200 marks at ordinary level and 300 marks at higher level.

The engineering course contributes towards the general education of students and, also, provides a basis for further study in a wide range of courses at third level.

Related 3rd Level Courses:

Apprenticeships	Mechanic	Biomedical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering	Electrician	Fitter/Turner
Industrial Engineering	Civil Engineering	Welder/Fabricator
Sheet Metal Worker	Aeronautical Engineering	
Manufacturing Technology	Plumber	
Engineering Technology Teaching		
Computer/Software Engineering		

It is envisaged that students would have studied Junior Cycle Engineering; however, this is not an essential requirement for a well-focused student.

Design and Communications Graphics

The Design and Communication Graphics course makes a unique contribution to the student's cognitive and skills development. These skills include graphic communication, creative problem solving, spatial ability/visualisation, design capabilities, computer graphics and CAD modelling. The creative and decision-making capabilities of students in the activities associated with design are developed through three principal areas of study:

Core Elements:
The core will give students a thorough understanding of the principles of 'plane and description', geometry and the communication of 'design and computer graphics'.

Optional Modules:
There are five optional modules each with a basis in the core providing students with the opportunity to study particular aspects of the course in more detail. Students must study 2 of the 5 options in addition to the core.

Student Assignment:
The student assignment is 40% of the examination marks of which CAD will form a significant and compulsory part. The purpose of the assignment is to assess those elements of the course that cannot be readily assessed through the terminal examination, in particular elements of design and communication graphics and the utilization of ICT in design.

The assignment will relate to a theme identified by the examining authority. A different theme will apply at Higher and Ordinary levels. Students must then proceed to develop a design or project brief in accordance with the given brief. The assignment may take the form of: **A design investigation and modification or A design investigation and concept design.** The assessment criteria will differ at Higher and Ordinary level.

Higher &Ordinary level	
Assignment	40%
Theory	60%
	100%

Professional Courses:
DCG Teaching
Graphic Design
Product Design
CAD Software Design
Architecture
Engineering

Technician Courses:
Architectural Technician
Construction Technician
Building Maintenance Technician

L.C.V.P. (Leaving Cert. Vocational Programme)

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is designed to enhance the vocational dimension of the Leaving Certificate (established). The programme was introduced in 1994 in response to the challenge placed on Ireland's education system by a changing work and business environment. The LCVP combines the academic strengths of the Leaving Certificate (established) with a new and dynamic focus on self–directed learning, innovation and enterprise. This two-year programme is part of an expanded provision that aims to cater for the diversity of participants' needs at senior cycle.

Throughout the programme students are encouraged to:
- Be innovative and enterprising
- Take responsibility for their own learning
- Adapt to changing circumstances
- Evaluate data and devise solutions to problems
- Communicate their thoughts and ideas effectively
- Work with others as part of a team
- Investigate and plan career options
- Use information and communications technologies
- Investigate local businesses and community enterprises
- Learn from their experiences

These skills and qualities are equally relevant to the needs of those preparing for further education, seeking employment or planning to start their own business.

The strong vocational focus of the LCVP is achieved by arranging Leaving Certificate subjects into Vocational Subject Groupings (VSGs) and through

the provision of additional courses of study in work preparation and enterprise known as the **Link Modules.**

Programme Requirements

Programme Requirements for students:

- At least **five** Leaving Certificate subjects, one of which must be Irish **plus** the Link Modules
- Two of the above subjects must be selected from one of the designated Vocational Subject Groupings
- Link Modules: Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education (in addition to five subjects)
- A recognised course in a Modern European Language other than Irish or English.

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

- The school has the discretion in this case- there are various options open to students.
- They may take a language at Junior Cert level, or they can follow one of the FETAC language modules or the language teacher can devise a school programme in the language.

Students must take the language class for a minimum of one class period per week or equivalent over the next two years of the programme within school time. It is not assessed externally, and the school can decide how to assess the course for modern languages.

If a student is exempt for Irish for the Leaving Certificate, they must still comply with the requirement to present a minimum of five subjects in the Leaving Certificate.

Vocational Subject Groupings (VSGs)

Two subjects are selected from one of the Vocational Subject Groupings. These subjects provide students with a focus for developing vocational skills and exploring their career options.

The Specialist Groupings consist of subjects which complement one another naturally. The Services Groupings comprise subjects which complement one another in a commercial context.

Vocational Subject Groupings (VSGs) 2022/23
Specialist Groupings
1 Construction Studies; Engineering; Design and Communication Graphics; Technology - **Any Two** 2 Physics **and** Construction Studies **or** Engineering **or** Technology **or** Design & Communication Graphics 3 Agricultural Science **and** Construction Studies **or** Engineering **or** Technology **or** Design & Communication Graphics 4 Agricultural Science **and** Chemistry **or** Physics **or** Physics/Chemistry 5 Home Economics; Agricultural Science; Biology – **Any Two** 6 Home Economics **and** Art – Design Option **or** Craft Option 7 Accounting; Business; Economics – **Any two** 8 Physics **and** Chemistry 9 Biology **and** Chemistry **or** Physics **or** Physics/Chemistry 10 Biology **and** Agricultural Science 11 Art – Design Option or Craft Option **and** Design & Communication Graphics
Specialist Groupings
12 Engineering **or** Technology **or** Construction Studies **or** Design & Communication Graphics **and** Accounting **or** Business **or Economics** 13 Home Economics **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics 14 Agricultural Science **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics 15 Art Design or Craftwork Option **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics 16 Music **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics

The Link Modules

Students taking the Leaving Certificate Examination will follow two Link Modules over the course of the two years.

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 and 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 organizing 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.

Information and Communications Technology

Students taking the LCVP will have the 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 program students will develop skills to:

- Enter, edit, store, retrieve, and print information.
- Word process CVs, letters, reports, and creates illustrated documents.
- Send and receive e-mail messages.
- Access and use relevant information from 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 program. The Link Modules encourage students to apply knowledge and skills they have acquired through their Vocational Subjects and in other areas of the Leaving Certificate. Vocational relevance is enhanced by putting in place opportunities for students to plan, organize and engage in active learning experiences inside and outside the classroom.

- Conducting investigations – businesses, community enterprises, agencies.
- Arranging visits out of school 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 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 the are assessed by Written Examination (40%) and by Portfolio of Coursework (60%).

The Portfolio of Coursework must be submitted on the first Wednesday in May of the Leaving Certificate year. The examination is of two and a half hours' duration and consists of the three sections which are outlined below.

<u>The structure of the Written Examination.</u>

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

<u>Outline of Portfolio.</u>

The Portfolio of Coursework accounts for 60% of total marks. Students assemble the portfolio over the two years of the program, and it is assessed at the end of the final year of the Leaving Certificate. The Portfolio and Written Examination are externally assessed by the Department of Education and Skills.

LINK MODULES - PORTFOLIO OF COURSEWORK
CORE ITEMS
Curriculum Vitae Career Investigation Enterprise/Action Plan Summary Report
OPTIONAL ITEMS (any two)
Diary of Work Experience Enterprise Report Recorded Interview/Presentation Report on My Own Place

All aspects of the course are covered, and students submit their best 6 Portfolio items.

Over 15,600 students participate each year and interestingly, over 80% of students use their LCVP in their six subjects to account for points.

Certification

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

Grades for the Link Modules are as follows:

Grade	Per cent
Distinction	80% – 100%
Merit	65% – 79%
Pass	50% – 64%

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

Grade	Universities and Institutes of Technology Award Revised points 2017 onwards
Distinction	66 points
Merit	46 points
Pass	28 points

Final Note

- **25 bonus points will be awarded for Higher Level Mathematics for H6 grades and above. For example, if an applicant receives a H6 grade an additional 25 points will be added to the 46 points already awarded for a H6 grade i.e., Higher Level Mathematics now carries a points score of 71 for this applicant.**

- **Take your time in making these choices. It is important that student discuss their options with their Guidance Counsellor, teachers and family to ensure they make the right decisions.**

- **The decisions made now have a great impact on future decisions and it is extremely difficult to make changes once the subjects have been chosen and classes allocated.**

- **So, think about it carefully, talk about it and ask if you are not sure.**