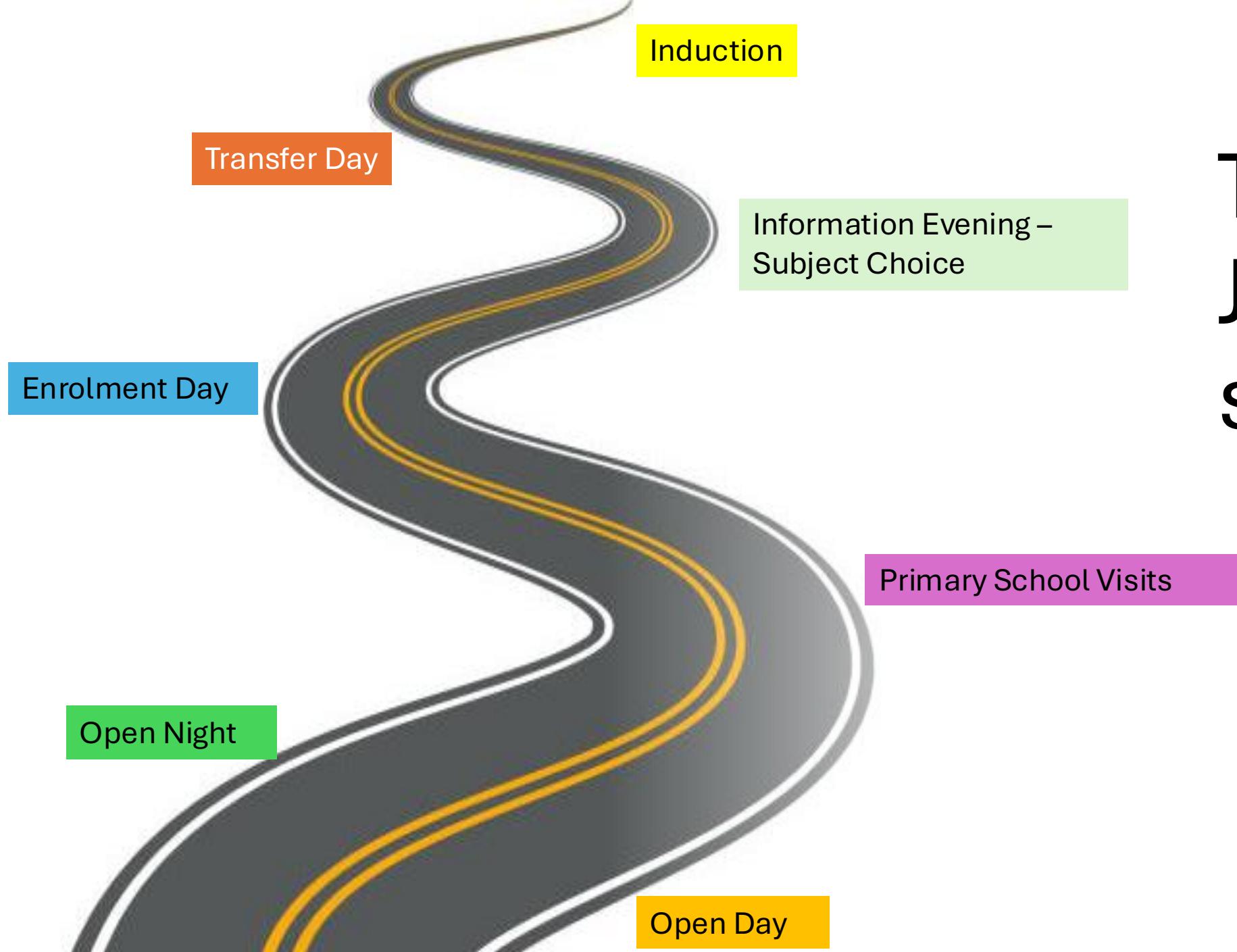




Welcome to Scoil Mhuiire

First Year Subject Options 2026

The Journey so far



Agenda

- Subjects on offer in Scoil Mhuire
- Compulsory versus option subjects
- How to choose?
- Course and career implications
- Additional Resources
- Next Steps





Compulsory Subjects:



- Irish
- English
- Mathematics
- History
- Information Technology
- Geography
- Science
- Religious Education
- PE (Wellbeing)
- CSPE (Wellbeing)
- SPHE (Wellbeing)

Optional Subjects available in Scoil Mhuire

1. Applied Technology
2. Business Studies
3. Coding & Digital Media Literacy (2 short courses)
4. Engineering
5. French (MFL)
6. Graphics
7. Home Economics
8. Music
9. Spanish(MFL)
10. Visual Art
11. Wood Technology



1. Applied Technology

Technology is mainly about using a design process to solve technological problems. You will learn how to safely use the tools, materials and equipment necessary to make a product.

- Helps you solve everyday technology problems
- Teaches you how to design solutions to problems
- Develops skills using tools and equipment
- Learn about materials, basic electronics, and gears

In Applied Technology there are three inter-connected strands:

- Principles and Practices
- Energy and Control
- Technology and Society

Final Exam	Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs)	Assessments Task
1.5 hr. paper Common Level	Two CBAs to be taken 2nd & 3rd year	Students complete a project set by SEC in 3rd year.
Worth 30% of Grade		Worth 70% of overall grade.

2. Business Studies

- Business studies encourages you to develop an appreciation of how people's lives are shaped by **economic and social factors**. Business studies also improves knowledge and understanding of **good business practice**
- Three subjects follow on from Junior Cycle Business Studies at Senior Cycle: Accounting, Business, and Economics. If you wish to study any of these subjects for the Leaving Certificate, it would be advantageous for you to have studied Junior Cycle Business Studies.

Final Exam	Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs)	Assessments Task
2 hr. paper Common Level Worth 90% of Grade	Two CBAs to be taken (2nd & 3rd year)	CBA in 3rd year Worth 10% of Grade

3. Coding & Digital Media Literacy (Short courses)

- *Coding: In this short course you will learn about computer science and develop the ability to formulate problems logically. You will design, write and test code through the development of programs, apps, games, animations or websites.*
- *In Digital Media Literacy you will learn to use digital technology for enquiry and research, to discriminate between the numerous sources of information and to participate safely and effectively in the online environment.*

Final Exam	Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs)	Assessments Task
No Final exam	One CBA: Final Project	No assessment tasks for short courses

4. Engineering

3 strands

1. Processes and Principles:

Students learn basic engineering skills and use materials and tools to make products.

2. Design Application:

Students learn how to plan, design, and build using the engineering design process.

3. Mechatronics:

Students combine mechanics, electronics, and software to see how machines work, from input to output.

Final Exam	Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs)	Assessments Task
1.5 hr. paper Common Level Worth 30% of Grade	Two CBAs to be taken 2nd & 3rd year	Students complete a project set by SEC in 3rd year. Worth 70% of overall grade.

6. Spanish (Modern Foreign Language)



Modern languages help you with skills like memory, confidence, teamwork and problem solving. They give you the chance to travel to other countries for study and work. They are useful for future jobs in business, the European Union, government employment, tourism, sport, media, teaching and technology.

The course has three main areas:

- Communication Skills:**
Students learn to understand and use the language by listening, reading, speaking, and writing.
- Language Awareness:**
Students learn how the language works, compare it with other languages they know, and think about how they learn languages.
- Culture and Intercultural Awareness:**
Students learn about the cultures of the countries where the language is spoken and compare them with their own culture.

Final Exam	Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs)	Assessments Task
<p>2hr paper</p> <p>Common Level</p> <p>Aural (Listening test) worth 35% of this</p> <p>Worth 90% of overall Grade</p>	<p>Two CBAs to be taken (2nd & 3rd year)</p>	<p>Students complete a reflection task set by SEC in 3rd year.</p> <p>Worth 10 % of overall grade.</p>

5. French (Modern Foreign Language)



Modern languages help you with skills like memory, confidence, teamwork and problem solving. They give you the chance to travel to other countries for study and work. They are useful for future jobs in business, the European Union, government employment, tourism, sport, media, teaching and technology.

The course has three main areas:

- **Communication Skills:**

Students learn to understand and use the language by listening, reading, speaking, and writing.

- **Language Awareness:**

Students learn how the language works, compare it with other languages they know, and think about how they learn languages.

- **Culture and Intercultural Awareness:**

Students learn about the cultures of the countries where the language is spoken and compare them with their own culture.

Final Exam	Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs)	Assessments Task
<p>2hr paper Common Level Aural (Listening test) worth 35% of this Worth 90% of Grade</p>	<p>Two CBAs to be taken (2nd & 3rd year)</p>	<p>Students complete a reflection task set by SEC in 3rd year.</p>

7. Graphics

Graphics helps students develop creativity, spatial skills, and clear thinking by solving visual and geometric problems.

The course has four main parts:

- **2D Graphics:** Students learn about shapes, drawings, and projections, and how 2D graphics help create 3D objects.
- **3D Graphics:** Students learn to understand and draw 3D objects, improving visual thinking and problem-solving skills.
- **Applied Graphics:** Students use 2D and 3D skills to solve real-world problems and clearly show their ideas using graphics.
- **CAD – Computer Aided Design (3D Computer model)**

Final Exam	Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs)	Assessments Task
2 hr paper Common Level Worth 70% of Grade	Two CBAs to be taken (2nd & 3rd year)	Students complete a project set by SEC in 3rd year. Worth 30% of overall grade.

8. Home Economics

Home Economics teaches students practical skills for everyday life, helping individuals and families make responsible choices.

The course has three main parts:

- Food, Health and Culinary Skills:**

Students learn about healthy eating and cooking in a practical way.

- Responsible Family Living:**

Students learn life skills to manage resources responsibly at home and in the community.

- Textiles and Craft:**

Students develop skills and creativity using textiles.

Final Exam	Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs)	Assessments Task
1.5 hr. paper Common Level	Two CBAs to be taken (2nd & 3rd year)	Students complete a practical food skills exam based on chosen brief in 3rd year.

9. Music

Music at Junior Cycle is a creative, practical, and enjoyable subject that allows students to express themselves while developing musical skills. The course is designed to suit all levels of musical experience, from beginners to experienced musicians.

The course has three main parts:

1. Performing

Students develop confidence and skill through regular performance in class. They will perform on an instrument of their choice or voice and all students will learn to play ukulele and keyboard. No previous experience playing an instrument is needed.

2. Listening & Appraising

Students listen to a wide range of musical styles while developing listening skills & musical language.

3. Composing

Students learn to read music and create their own music using imagination and technology. This develops creativity and problem-solving skills.

Final Exam	Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs)	Assessments Task
1.5 hr paper Common Level Worth 70% of Grade	Two CBAs to be taken (2nd & 3rd year)	Practical examination made up of three solo and / or group songs / pieces. Worth 30 % of overall grade.

10. Visual Art

Visual Art helps students develop creativity, teamwork, problem-solving, and confidence. Students learn to use both traditional and modern tools, building skills useful for further study and work.

The course has three main parts:

- **Art:** Students create and study artworks, sharing ideas and feelings through visual work.
- **Craft:** Students use materials and techniques to make creative and decorative objects.
- **Design:** Students plan and solve problems by creating visual ideas and solutions.

Final Exam	Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs)	Assessments Task
No final written exam for Visual Art	Two CBAs to be taken (2nd & 3rd year)	CBA 3rd year: Develop their ideas to create two artefacts. These are then sent to the SEC for marking. 100% of final mark

11. Wood Technology.

Students can learn many practical skills that can prove useful for later in life.

They will learn the correct procedures to follow when developing an idea into a finished artefact e.g. a piece of furniture or a child's toy etc. They will be able to identify different trees, recognise their importance to us and our environment and they will learn some of the skills to make objects from wood and know how to apply appropriate finishes to them, e.g. paint, varnish, stain or polish.

Three interconnected strands:

- Principles and practices,
- Design thinking
- Wood science and materials.

Final Exam	Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs)	Assessments Task
1.5 hr. Paper. Common level Worth 30% of grade.	Two CBAs to be taken (2nd & 3rd year)	Students complete a project set by SEC in 3rd year. Worth 70% of overall grade

Levels

- Mathematics, Irish and English can be studied at two levels (Higher or Ordinary)
- All other subjects are at common level



Optional Subjects

Choose 4 in order of preference (you will study 3). Think your interests and strengths.



Think about your future career and passions.



Don't worry—changes are possible later.



Every subject has value and relevance, so pick what excites you!

Multiple Intelligences

- We are all intelligent in different ways!
- Every single one of you have something that you are good at!
- You may know what you are good at now.. But you will find out very soon.
- Some ways to help you decide are to think about where your strengths lie now ...



Everyone learns and thinks in different ways.

You may be one or quite possibly a combination of some of the following.

Linguistic (Word smart)

You like books, reading, writing, talking, and learning languages.

English, Irish, French (MFL) Spanish (MFL), History, Religious Education.

Logical–Mathematical (Number & Logic Smart)

You like numbers, problem-solving, patterns, and figuring things out.

Mathematics, Science, Business Studies, Engineering, Applied Technology.

Visual–Spatial (Picture & Design Smart)

You like drawing, designing, maps, images, and thinking in pictures.

Visual Art, Graphics, Design, Engineering, Geography



Everyone learns and thinks in different ways.

🏃 Bodily-Kinesthetic (Movement & Hands-on Smart)

You like moving, sports, building things, and learning by doing.

PE (Wellbeing), Wood Technology, Engineering, Applied Technology, Home Economics

🎵 Musical (Music Smart)

You like music, rhythm, singing, instruments, and sounds.

- Music

🤝 Interpersonal (People Smart)

You like working with others, helping people, and being part of a team.

CSPE (Wellbeing), SPHE (Wellbeing), Business Studies, Religious Education.

🧠 Intrapersonal (Self Smart)

You like working alone, thinking about your feelings, and setting goals.

SPHE (Wellbeing), Religious Education, Visual Art.



Everyone learns and thinks in different ways.

Naturalistic (Nature & Environment Smart)

You like nature, animals, the environment, and learning about the world.

- Geography, Science, Home Economics

Digital / Technological Intelligence. (Tech Smart)

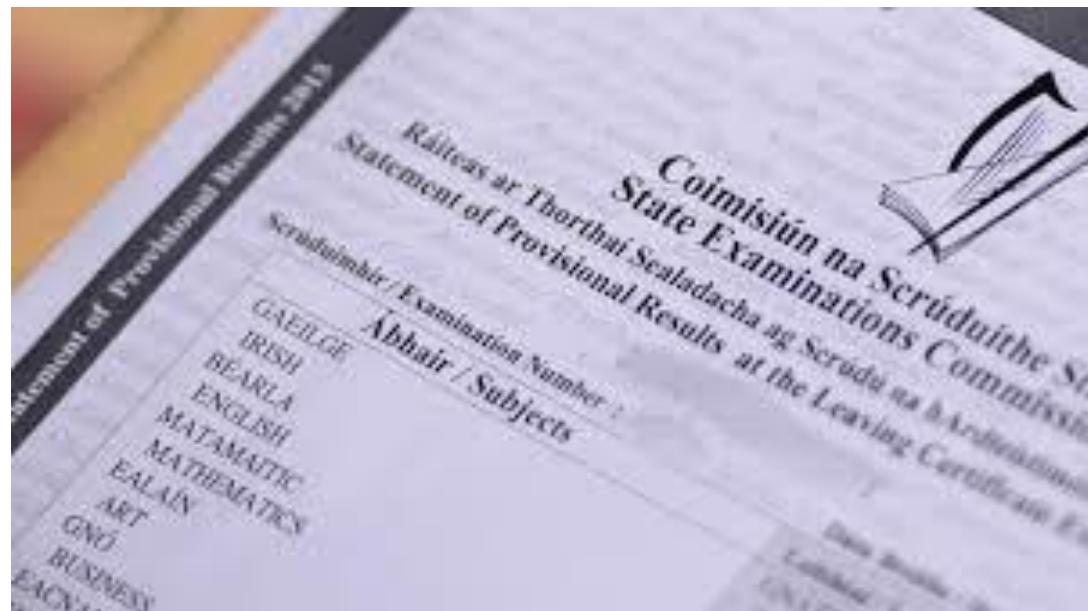
You like computers, technology, coding, and how things work.

- Coding & Digital Media Literacy, Information Technology, Applied Technology, Engineering



The Future

The Leaving Certificate may seem a long way off but a few important things to take note of now are..



Very Important at this stage

The National Universities of Ireland (NUI) and their associated colleges still require a third language for some courses.

- University College Dublin (UCD),
- University of Galway (formerly NUIG),
- University College Cork (UCC),
- Maynooth University

Therefore students must study English, Irish and either French or Spanish (unless exempt) to be eligible to apply for CERTAIN courses.



University College
‘oláiste na hO’



MU
Name
of

3rd language is needed for Some NUI courses:

IS NEEDED FOR:

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Arts (English, history, music, psychology)
- Business (except Maynooth)
- Law (except Maynooth)

Not Needed for:

- Engineering
- Science
- Nursing



Exceptions

At present, Students who were born outside the Republic of Ireland are exempt from the NUI third language requirement
(Provided they are studying Irish)

(At College application stage they apply for an NUI exemption presenting their birth certificate.)

Irish Exemption

- All parents/guardians should refer to the Revising Circular 0053/2019 - exemption from the study of Irish
- <https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/exemptions-from-the-study-of-irish-post-primary/>
- In line with other Department policies in the area of Special Educational needs, the new guidelines move away from psychologist reports to a needs-based model

Please review these slides in your own time and also study the Qualifax and Careers portal websites for the most up to date info on requirements.



Tips

- Choose subjects based on interest, not what your friends are doing.
- Use Qualifax.ie and careers portal.ie for third-level requirements.
- Remember, the journey matters more than the destination. Everyone's journey is different. Your job is to find what works for you.
- Secondary school isn't about being good at everything, it's about *discovering* what you're good at.



Next Steps

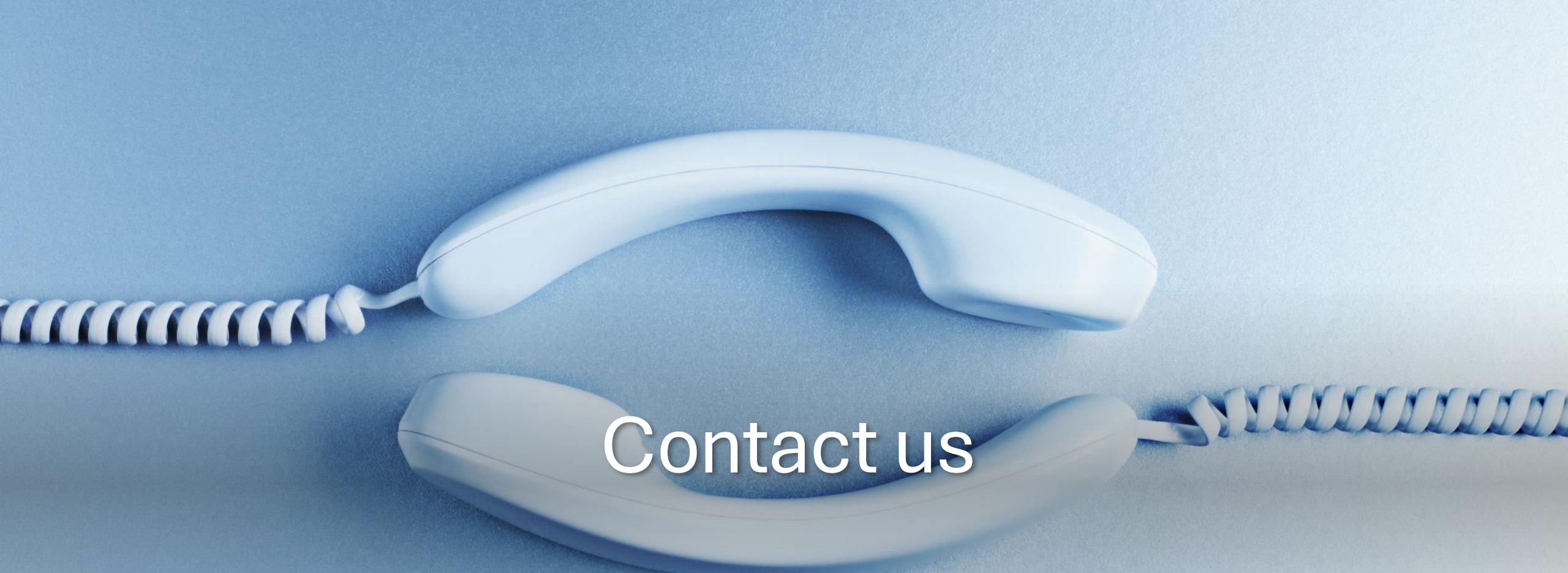
Review the slides

Discuss and consider

Log on to VSWare

Input Options





Contact us

074 – 93 61065

**In relation to subject /
college requirements. Email:
[orla.mccafferty@scoilmhuir
ebuncrana.ie](mailto:orla.mccafferty@scoilmhuir
ebuncrana.ie)**