



Welcome



TO THE LEAVING CERT APPLIED (LCA) INFORMATION SESSION

Any Questions? Contact: cryan@smcn.ie or Year Head or Guidance Counsellor

We're here to support you in choosing the best option for your future

What is LCA



A practical, hands-on Leaving Certificate Programme

Focus on work experience, real-life learning, and continuous assessment

Designed to help you succeed in school and beyond

Who is LCA for?



Students who prefer practical learning



Students who like continuous assessment instead of one final exam



Students who enjoy working in teams



Students who want real experience in the workplace



Students who want to keep options open for college, apprenticeships, and work

Who is LCA for?



What will I study?

- Vocational Preparation
- English & Communication
- Mathematical Applications
- Social Education
- ICT
- Leisure & Recreation
- Hotel, Catering & Tourism
- Hair and Beauty
- Gaeilge/Modern Foreign Language
- Electives: Childcare and Religion
- Option to study LCE Maths and LCE Language (if timetabling allows)





How is LCA Assessed?

Credits system rather than one big exam

Continuous assessment: tasks, key assignments, attendance

Final exams in English, Maths, Social Education, and Vocational Specialisms

Students earn up to **200 credits**

Awards: **Pass, Merit, Distinction**



Attendance



90% ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE CREDITS

Certified absences and school activities do not impact attendance

Our students tell us that it is much easier to attend in LCA than in the established Leaving Cert

"The school week is shorter, because you are on work experience every Friday"

"Small class size helps"

"Positive atmosphere makes it easier to attend"

"Good relationships with teachers"

"More understanding"



Work Experience

One day per week

Try out different career areas

Build confidence and responsibility

Great for CVs, apprenticeships, and job applications

Many students find career interests through LCA placements

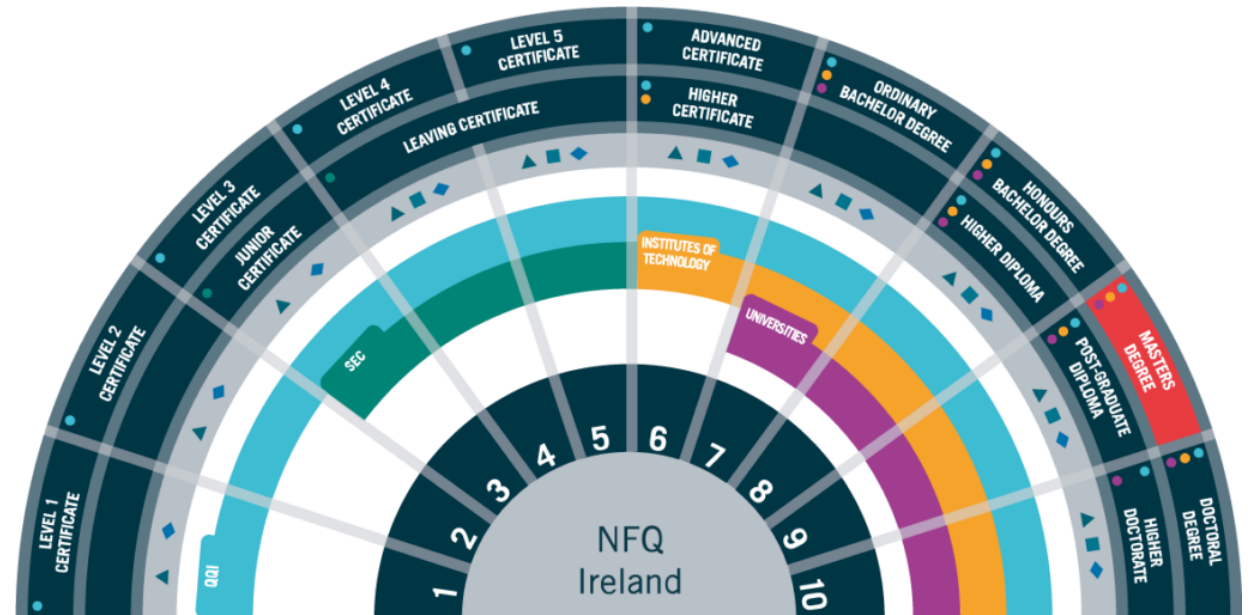
Trips, Events and Activities

- Subject-related trips
- Workshops, guest speakers, and exhibitions
- Team-building activities
- Opportunities to develop communication, organisation and teamwork
- Fun, positive and practical learning experiences
- This year so far: Croke Park; World Skills; National Print Museum; Riverbank Arts Centre, KWETB



What happens after LCA?

- Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses
- Apprenticeships
- Traineeships
- Employment
- Opportunity to progress to higher education after PLC (e.g. Level 5 → degree routes)





Why Choose LCA?

- Practical learning
- Less pressure than the traditional LC
- Learn real-life skills
- Build confidence, maturity, and independence
- Great for students who want structure, routine and support
- A positive path to further education or employment

What our students say:

- “I like that we’re assessed through tasks and not one huge exam.”
- “Work experience helped me choose my career.”
- “LCA made school more enjoyable.”
- "It's easier to come to school."
- "Classwork is more practical."
- "You can leave school at school"





Questions

- Ask anything!
- We're here to help you make the best choice for next year.