



Davis College

Gaelcholáiste Dáibhís

Mallow

Transition Year & Leaving Certificate Subject Choices



Transition Year

Transition Year has been reformed by the Department of Education. While there are changes the overall focus remains the same .

What is it all about?

1. Subject sampling which is complimented by career guidance
2. Career readiness—increased focus on career guidance and career investigation with additional career guidance classes and increased work experience opportunities .
3. Focus on recognising achievements of students over the year
4. Personal growth - school show, guest speakers, Hope Foundation, Young Scientist, Competitions, Model United Nations, Erasmus Plus etc.
5. Irish English Maths, SPHE, PE central to the year
6. Being a learner—study skills, portfolio development, reflecting on work done—key skills required in the new Leaving Certificate
7. Community Involvement—participate in the local community



SUBJECT SAMPLING

At this time of year we ask our 3rd Years for expressions of interest in subjects they think they might like to study for Leaving Certificate. This allows us to develop a timetable for the school year. To assist students and parents in this process the following supports are in place:

- ◆ Teacher presentations on subjects to students
- ◆ Information booklet on subject choice
- ◆ Student meeting with the career guidance counsellor as required.
- ◆ Parents meetings with the career guidance team on request.

The new Transition Year involves a lot of Guidance Counselling and over the course of the year students may realise they need to change subjects.

If I don't like a subject? Can I change?

If students make subject choices and find in Transition Year that they have made the wrong choice, they can change subjects. We will facilitate this throughout the school year. For most of the school year there is no Leaving Certificate material covered per se however any material in a subject will enhance understanding of Leaving Cert materials.

How many subjects do students take for Leaving Certificate?

In general students take 7 subjects (Irish, English, Maths and four others) Six of these subjects are counted for points in the Leaving Certificate.

Can I choose to study more than seven subjects?

Yes, but in general seven subjects are more than enough for any student. The exception to this is Applied Maths which is offered as an eight subject to those who have a particular talent in Maths.

What do I need to do now?

You need to consider what subjects you think you might like to do for Leaving Certificate. The more research that is done now the less likely you are to need to change subjects later

Indicating interest in Subjects—Factors to be considered

1. What might I like to do when I leave school?

Do I want to go to 3rd level? What courses might I like?

Do I want to get a job? What might I like to do?

Do I want an apprenticeship? What type of apprenticeship?

What subjects are going to help me in any of these?

2. Am I genuinely interested in and curious about the subject?

What do I like? What am I interested in? If you like something and are interested in it, you are more likely to work at it and enjoy it.

3. Play to your strengths?

What am I good at? You may like a subject but are you able for it? If you are good at it and enjoy the subject, you are more likely to work at it.

3. Is the subject necessary for my chosen career?

If the answer is 'Yes' then you must do it.

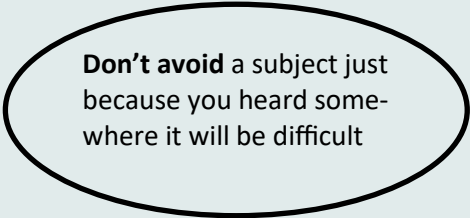
If the answer is 'No' ask yourself would it be helpful for my chosen career? If it isn't helpful, make sure you have all the subjects you need before choosing this subject.

If you are not sure check with your Guidance counsellor.

4. Check out textbooks /Talk to other students/Talk to teachers of the subject

Don't choose a subject because

- your friends are choosing it
- of who teaches it
- you believe it will get you a job
- you believe it is easy



Don't avoid a subject just because you heard somewhere it will be difficult

If I didn't do a subject at Junior Cycle, can I take it up at Senior Cycle.

In the case of a lot of subjects, the answer is Yes. You may need to put in a little extra effort but it is very achievable. This is definitely true if you have talent in an area e.g someone with a flair for Art, Music, Metalwork or Woodwork. In the case of some other subjects, the answer is probably No! E.g. it would be very difficult to pick up German or French in Leaving Certificate never having studied it before.

What are my options after Leaving Certificate?

There are many options!

1. Employment : Certain jobs may not require particular qualifications but at the same time some subjects will be more helpful than others. E.g. you may want to be a mechanic. Engineering will help greatly in this area.

2. Apprenticeships: With SOLAS (FAS) or a specific firm or organisation for example: ESB, Teagasc, Fáilte Ireland. Again, your subjects will be key to getting into apprenticeships.

3. Training: If you join an organisation like the Gardai or the Army, specific training and a guaranteed job with career prospects awaits you. Depending on what you apply for, subjects will be central.

4. Colleges of Further Education

These colleges, such as Mallow College of Further Education, offer post-Leaving Certificate courses (PLC). A student must reach Leaving Certificate standard to apply and for some courses subject requirements may be needed.

5. Third Level Colleges:

The Central Applications Office (CAO) processes all University applications, as well as Technological Universities of Institutes of Technology, Art teacher training colleges and some private colleges.

6. UCAS

Entry is through the Universities and College Administration Services (UCAS) in the UK.

**Universities require a European language for
some courses but not for all.**

**Technological Universities generally do not
have a language requirement.**

For information on minimum entry requirements. consult www.nui.ie

Listing of Higher Education Providers

Higher Education Institutes, CAO

Universities

University College Cork, www.ucc.ie

University of Limerick, www.ul.ie

University of Galway, www.universityofgalway.ie

Maynooth University, www.maynoothuniversity.ie

University College Dublin, www.ucd.ie

Dublin City University, www.dcu.ie

Trinity College Dublin, www.tcd.ie

Mary Immaculate College, www.mic.ul.ie

RCSI University of Medicine & Health Sciences, www.rcsi.ie

St. Angela's College, www.atu.ie

Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art and Design & Technology, www.iadt.ie

National College of Art & Design, www.ncad.ie

Carlow College, St Patrick's College, www.carlowcollege.ie

Griffith College Cork, www.griffith.ie

American College, Dublin, www.amcd.ie

Marino Institute of Education, Dublin, www.mie.ie

Dublin Business School, www.dbs.ie

St. Patrick's Pontifical University, www.sppu.ie

Shannon College of Hotel Management, www.shannoncollege.ie

Technological Universities and Institutes of Technology

Munster Technological University, Cork & Tralee, www.mtu.ie

Technological University of the Shannon, Limerick & Athlone, www.tus.ie

South East Technological University, Waterford & Carlow, www.setu.ie

Atlantic Technological University, Connemara, Donegal, Galway, Mayo,

Mountbellew, Sligo & St. Angelas, www.atu.ie

Technological University Dublin, www.tudublin.ie

Dundalk Institute of Technology, www.dkit.ie

Post Leaving Cert Colleges

www.mallowcampus.ie, Cork College of FET Mallow Campus

www.tramoreroadcampus.ie, Cork College of FET Tramore Road Campus

www.douglasstreetcampus.ie, Cork College of FET Douglas Street Campus

www.morrisonsislandcampus.ie, Cork College of FET Morrison's Island Campus

Tertiary Degree routes

www.nto.hea.ie, National Tertiary Office

Higher Education Access Route – HEAR,

A higher education admissions scheme for Leaving Certificate students (under 23) whose economic or social background are underrepresented in higher education www.accesscollege.ie

Disability Access Route to Education – DARE

A higher education admissions scheme for Leaving Certificate students (under 23) whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education. www.accesscollege.ie

Career Guidance related websites

www.qualifax.ie, National Learners' Database

www.careersportal.ie, careers information

www.cao.ie, Central Applications Office

www.ucas.com, study in the UK

www.susi.ie, student finance

www.studentfinance.ie, HEA finance information

www.hea.ie, Higher Education Authority

www.nui.ie, National University of Ireland

<https://hpat-ireland.acer.org>, HPAT exam

www.eunicas.ie, study in Europe

www.examinations.ie, State Examinations Commission

www.education.ie, Department of Education and Skills

www.nursingboard.ie, nursing

www.apprenticeship.ie, apprenticeship information, SOLAS

www.garda.ie, Gardai

www.military.ie, Defence Forces information

www.scoilnet.ie, education

www.teagasc.ie, agriculture

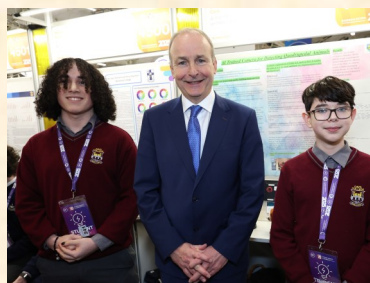
www.publicjobs.ie, public sector recruitment

www.failteireland.ie, hospitality and tourism sector

Where do Subjects Lead At Leaving Certificate

Junior Certificate	Leaving Certificate
Irish	Irish
English	English
Maths	Maths
The subjects below translate directly into Leaving Certificate subjects.	
History	History
Geography	Geography
French	French
German	German
Music	Music
Art	Art
PE	PE (Exam subject)
Digital Media	Computer Studies (Exam subject)
CSPE	Politics and Society (Exam Subject)
The following subjects change name but build on what has been learned in Junior Cycle	
Home Economics	Social and Scientific
Technical Graphics	Design and Communications Graphics (DCG)
Woodwork	Construction Studies
Metalwork	Engineering
The following subjects divide into different subjects allowing students to specialise– students have experienced all of these at Junior Cert.	
Business	Business Studies
	Accounting
	Economics
Science	Biology
	Chemistry
	Physics
	Agricultural Science

SUBJECTS



History

Current Curriculum

The course of study undertaken is the Later Modern period 1815 – 1993. Students study four topics, two from Irish history and two from European and world history. Topics covered in the past have included Dictatorship and Democracy in Europe in the 1930s and 40s (Hitler, Stalin, etc.), U.S. History (Vietnam, Space Race, race relations etc.), Irish history in the 20th century.

All those starting 5th year in September 2027 will follow a new History curriculum. There is currently little information about this but we expect the existing curriculum to be broadly reflective of what is currently in place.

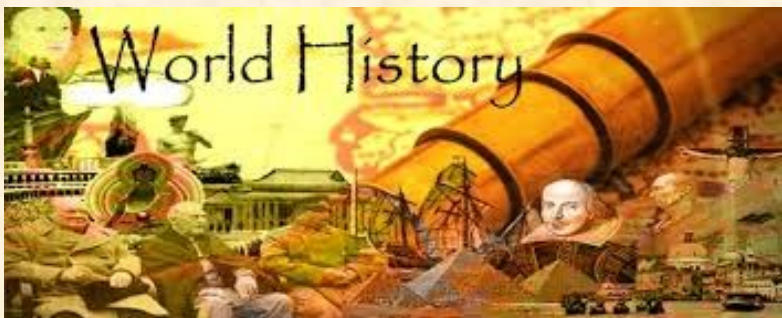
More information will be available as Transition Year progresses

What skills are useful for this subject?

Fluency in English; communication skills, research skills and analytical skills. The new History Curriculum emphasises the use and analysis of primary resources using multi-media and IT.

Career relevance

As well as more obvious careers such as teaching and lecturing, History gives 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.





GEOGRAPHY

1. The Physical Environment: Key topics are :

(i) Tectonics (ii) Rock Cycle (iii) Surface Processes (iv) Atmosphere and Weather (v) Climates

2. The Human Environment: Key topics are:

(i) Human settlement (ii) Population and Migration.

3. The Global Environment: Key topics for that are:

(i) Agriculture and fisheries (ii) Tourism (iii) Globalisation (iv) Development assistance (v) Geopolitics.

Assessment

The written exam is 60% and the "Applied Geography Project" is 40%

What skills are useful for this subject?

- Ability to research /collect data /write reports/interpret/analyse results;
- Concise essay writing skills / map skills;
- Good ability to retain information and analyse questions;
- The subject is largely theory based so an interest in Geography is essential and an ability to compile in-depth answers is required
- More advanced study at senior level.

What careers / courses does Geography lead to?

Geography is a useful subject for most careers, particularly town planning, teaching, engineering, environmental management, green energy, cartography (map making), climatology (weather), Geology-Earth Science, transport management, working with statistics i.e. CSO. It is a subject that will benefit students all of their lives and awakens an interest and understanding of everything happening around us.

MUSIC

Curriculum

The Curriculum includes performing, composing and listening elements.



What will you study?

Strand 1

Perform solo and group pieces

Compose original melodies

Use digital music technology to enhance your creativity.

Strand 2

Analysing musical styles

Exploring music in film and other media

Learn to Understand cultural connections through live performances and historical context.

What skills are useful for this subject?

- Good listening ability.
- An **interest** in music.
- Ability to play an **instrument** or **sing** is a requirement.

Careers

Music is useful for primary teaching, second-level teaching, performance, music industry recording, music publishing, journalism and broadcasting



Art, Craft, Design & Digital Media

Syllabus

Life Sketching, Still Life, Imaginative Composition, Design, Craftwork and Digital Media.

The History of Art and Art Appreciation is a broad course covering Irish and European Art, and also Art Appreciation. It requires looking at artworks through the use of reproductions, slides and art galleries, reading books and writing essays when necessary.



Assessment

The course is assessed in three ways:

A project is completed after Christmas in 6th Year –50%

Life Drawing exam in May—12.5%

Written Exam –37.5%

What skills are useful for the subject?

- spatial and observational awareness
- good cognitive ability and co-ordination skills.
- Artistic talent
- Creativity

What careers / courses does Art & Design lead to?

Art graduates are lateral thinkers and creative problem-solvers; these are attributes that are invaluable in a digital age and lead to such careers as: graphic design, illustration, interior design, art teaching, architecture, textile design, animation and digital media, fashion design, community arts worker, media and advertising, art history, guide, lecturer, fine artist and museum/gallery conservator.

Additional information? If we reflect on the amount of design that goes into the creation of clothes, the construction of buildings, the production of film or TV programmes, the manufacture of cars and virtually all products we use in our lives, we begin to realize just how important art and design is!



FRENCH

Syllabus

The course is the study of the French language leading to a competency and an ability to speak and write the language. Course work for Higher

and Ordinary is similar. However oral and written skills are of particular importance at Higher level. For Ordinary level the written section involves cloze tests, form-filling, writing notes, fax/email, postcards and letters. Students are also encouraged to read French material outside of school (news articles, books) and to listen to authentic French material e.g. news items.

What kind of student might French suit?

- Students who can already speak French or who have a natural flair for languages.
- Completion of the Junior Certificate course is a distinct advantage.
- Students who are considering working in France, Canada or in international relations in the future.
- Students who are interested in French culture, history and language.

Assessment

Oral assessment –25%

Written assessment –55%

Aural assessment –20%

Third level Entry Requirements

This subject meets the language requirement for entry into a number of third level courses.

Careers

In all career areas employment prospects are much more enhanced for students who have a good working knowledge of a European language.



GERMAN

Why study German?

German as a Leaving Cert subject aims to bring students closer to fluency in the German language, as well as developing a good knowledge of literature, culture, geography, and national history to provide a context for communication. As Germany plays a major role in the wider European context, German as a language is becoming ever more important in the lives of young Europeans in offering career opportunities that will be available in the years ahead.

What kind of student might German suit?

- Anyone with an interest in German culture, history, and language.
- Students who are considering working in Germany, Austria, or in international relations in the future.
- Completion of the Junior Certificate is a distinct advantage
- Students who can already speak German or who have a natural flair for languages.

Assessment

Section	Higher Level	Ordinary Level
Speaking	25%	20%
Listening Comprehension	20%	25%
Reading Comprehension	30%	40%
Writing	25%	15%

Third level Entry Requirements

This subject meets the language requirement for entry into a number of third level courses.

Careers

In all career areas employment prospects are much more enhanced for students who have a good working knowledge of a European language.



Accounting

Current Syllabus

1. Financial Accounting: final accounts, control accounts, interpretation of accounts, incomplete records, tabular statements, club and service firm accounts, published accounts.
2. Management Accounting: absorption costing, marginal costing, budgets, including cash budget, master and subsidiary and flexible budgets.

Skills

Junior Certificate Business is an advantage. Students with good numerical and logical skills will enjoy the subject. Higher level Maths is not essential but again would be an advantage. Deductive powers and a good learning memory are also advantages.

Careers and Future Courses:

A knowledge of accounting is an advantage for any business course at Third Level. Graduates with accounting enter a diverse range of career areas from general management to marketing to taxation to financial regulation to financial services, accounting, auditing, etc.

Economics

Economics is a business subject whereby students explore the economy, in which all business units operate or work. The course is divided into two sections:

- Micro-Economics-Dealing with individual business units and structures.
- Macro-Economics-Dealing with the broader economy, including issues such as inflation and government policy, employment and job prospects, rate of inflation and the European Central Bank.

This subject helps students to understand everyday questions such as: how are mobile phones, laptops, priced? What influences the cost of text messages? Who decides on the price of match tickets, clothes, electrical goods? Who decides what the level of pay and salaries should be?

What kind of student might Economics suit?

- Students who may be considering a future career in any area of business or finance:
- Students who enjoyed Junior Certificate Business Studies;
- Students who take an interest in current affairs, psychology, politics and how the economy works.

All 3rd level business courses require an 'economics content' so Economics in school would be an advantage to students.

Careers

Banking, insurance, finance and general business and marketing.





Business

Curriculum

Leaving Certificate Business develops students' awareness of the significance of business for the Irish and International Economy and helps foster an understanding of how the world of business works.

You will learn how business is relevant to your life, develop financial and business literacy, appreciate business in the world around you and how businesses are shaped by those who work, lead, and manage the business environment.

Key topics include stakeholders in business, the consumer, industrial relations, management, business ownership structures, economic indicators, national and EU policies, international trade, enterprise, marketing, saving, and investing.

What skills are useful for this subject?

- Good English language skills
- Critical thinking and problem solving.
- Planning, organisation, and time management
- An ability to learn and apply information to business situations.
- Research and analytical skills.
- Communication skills

Careers / Courses:

Human Resource Management, Sales, Supply Chain Manager, Accountant, Taxation, Law, Insurance, Marketing, Customs and Excise, Corporate Social Responsibility, Administration, Banking, Investments Economics



SOCIAL & SCIENTIFIC (HOME ECONOMICS)

All those starting 5th year in September 2027 will follow a new Home Economics curriculum. There is currently little information about this but we expect the existing curriculum to be broadly reflective of what is currently in place. More information will be available as Transition Year progresses

The Home Economics core Curriculum is divided into four parts:

Food Studies – nutrition and diets, Irish diet & Irish food industry, safety & food legislation, preservation & microbiology.

Management & Consumer Studies – management structures, family & housing finance, textiles & consumer studies.

Sociology – family changes: changes in structure and characteristics, marriage: legal requirements, etc. and family law.

Elective Sociology – social change, education, work, leisure and poverty.

What careers does Home Economics lead to?

Home Economics is an applied science, i.e. many topics are based on scientific principles and then developed in applied situations – environmental health officer, dietetics and nutritionist, nursing, education, pre-school and primary teaching, beautician, hospitality industry, chef, bar, hotel management, tourism, childcare etc.



Agricultural Science

Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science is the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of modern agriculture. It is a scientific approach to the knowledge and

understanding, skills and attitudes that affect the long-term sustainability of natural resources – the land, plants, and animals – and places particular emphasis on the sustainable use of these resources for the economic and social benefit of humankind. There are four sections in the course: Scientific Practices, Soil, Crops and Animals. Currently: coursework - 75%, Project - 25%.

Current Subject Content:

- Scientific Practices: 22 Specified Practical Activities
- Soil: Rocks, Soil Formation; Physical, Chemical and Biological Properties
- Crops: Study of crops - cereals, potatoes, root crops, energy crops; plant physiology, nutrition and genetics
- Animals: Study of farm animals - cattle, sheep, pigs; animal physiology, nutrition and genetics
- Project: Usually requires growing a crop and gathering data but a different brief is released each year.

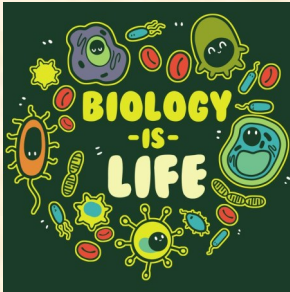
Skills

- Access to a farm is essential.
- An aptitude for science
- Organisational skills
- Interest in agriculture

New course Sept. 2027. We expect it is broadly in line with what is currently in place

Careers

Agricultural consultant, Estates manager, Farm manager, Fish farm manager. Plant breeder/geneticist, Rural practice surveyor, Soil scientist Agricultural Engineer, Agricultural Food Scientist, Agricultural Inspector.



BIOLOGY

The Biology course is changing this September. The Curriculum isn't fully settled at present but will cover some of the same topics as the Junior Cycle Biology but in greater detail.

The course is divided into three main areas.

Unit 1 - The Study of Life includes The Scientific Method, .

Unit 2 - The Cell includes Genetics, Enzymes, Respiration and Photosynthesis.

Unit 3 – The Organism Human Body, Plant Biology Reproduction etc.

There are 22 mandatory experiments and these are expected to be retained

What skills are useful for this subject?

Good memory – Lots of learning in the Biology Curriculum

Hard work – students need to take initiative and do the learning homework every night or will fall behind very quickly.

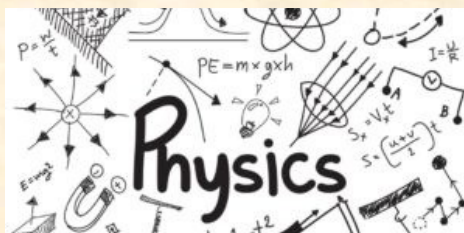
Students should be good attendees as there is only one opportunity to complete the practical's involved.

There is an extensive vocabulary for students to become familiar with and learn accurately.

Good research and experimental skills – the new project will require students to create a research project, design and carry out experiments and evaluate their findings in a research paper.

What careers / courses does Biology lead to?

All Medical fields (nurses, doctors, dentists), Paramedical, Physiotherapist, Scientific Industry (biotechnology, Sustainability, Environmental), Beautician, Nutritional Sciences, Biochemist, Microbiologist, Ecologist, Zoologist etc



Curriculum

The physics course covers the following topics: geometrical optics, linear motion, momentum, force, circular motion, simple harmonic motion, temperature, heat, wave motion, light and sound waves, electricity, magnetism, electricity generation, radioactivity, nuclear energy and particle physics.

The course involves a good mixture of theory, problem solving and practical work. During the two-year course students must perform mandatory laboratory experiments to be recorded in a notebook. There is no project worked involved.

How is Physics assessed?

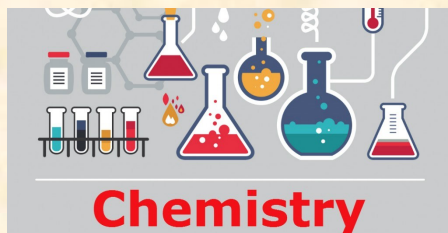
.A new method of assessment is being introduced, which includes a total of 60% being allocated to a new written paper, and 40% being assigned to a project

What skills are useful of the subject?

- A logical mind
- A wish to understand the subject before learning or applying it.
- A need to be able to manipulate formulae.
- Maths comprises 80% of the course.

What careers does Physics lead to?

Physics is the science that leads to understanding measurement. Physics is a core subject for further study in the areas of civil, electrical and mechanical engineering, medicine, veterinary and dentistry. Physics is the basis of all technological developments of the current age.



Curriculum

The Curriculum which will be taught from September 2025 onwards includes studying the periodic table, bonding, atomic structure, acid / bases, volumetric analysis, thermochemistry, organic chemistry, oxidation/reduction, rates of reactions, water chemistry, industrial chemistry, atmospheric chemistry, metals and electrochemistry

How is chemistry assessed?

A new method of assessment is being introduced, which includes a total of 60% being allocated to a new written paper, and 40% being assigned to an independent investigation which will see students research, design and reflect on a question which they develop themselves.

What skills are useful for the subject?

- An interest in Science
- Junior Cert Science
- Good standard in Maths.
- Logical and methodical skills an advantage.

What careers / courses does Chemistry lead to?

Medicine, General Science, Paramedical, Pharmacy, Engineering, Agricultural Science, Biotechnology.

NB: Chemistry is essential for certain courses, including Medicine in UCC.

LEAVING CERT APPLIED MATHS



Applied Maths

Applied Maths is, as its name suggests, 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.

What kind of student might Applied Maths suit?

- Anyone considering a career in any area of Engineering, Science, IT, Business, Finance, Architecture or Education.
- Students studying Leaving Cert. higher level Maths. This course also helps students studying Physics as there is some overlap in the course content.
- Students who need high entry points to get into university. The percentage of A grades in the Leaving Cert. is among the highest of all subjects.

What advantages does choosing Applied Maths bring?

- If you have a talent for Maths/Physics, you should be able to do just as well in Applied Maths thus enabling you to increase your points.
- Overlap between parts of the Leaving Cert Physics course and the Applied Maths course – leads to a deeper understanding of these topics.
- Overlap between parts of the Higher Level Maths course and the Applied Maths Course
- It is ideal for students who are good at Maths but who may be weak at other subjects which they may have to do for university e.g. a language
- It is very possible to cover the whole course in one year if a student is committed.
- 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 first year in college and you will have a head start if you have the Leaving Cert course done.

Assessment

Exam in Leaving Certificate-80%

Project - 20%



Construction Studies

What is Construction Studies?

Construction Studies currently involves the study of how buildings and structures all around us are designed and built. The course content ranges from the study of: building heritage, planning permission, foundation/wall and roof construction to how electrical, water and heating systems in houses work. This course also includes a practical element.

Assignment and Project work.

Currently schools are being told that all subjects will have a 40% project as part of the final grade as well as a written exam worth 60%

Subjects that would help with the study of Construction Studies:

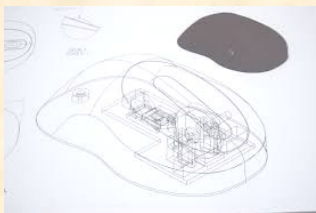
If you have studied any of the following subjects at Junior Cert level it will greatly help:

- Technical Graphics
- Woodwork,
- Metalwork,
- Art,
- Science and Maths.

Leaving Certificate subjects that complement Construction Studies:
Engineering, DCG, Art, Physics.

Careers and Future Studies:

Construction Studies is the stepping stone for a career in architecture, interior design, product design, mechanical engineering, Computer Aided Design (CAD) courses, construction management, graphic design, carpentry/ building apprenticeships and secondary school teaching.



Design and Communication Graphics (DCG)

New course
Sept. 2027. We
expect it is broadly
in line with what is
currently in place

What is Design and Communication Graphics (DCG)?

DCG is an exciting and dynamic subject which covers a broad variety of topics including Projection Systems, Pictorial Projection, Dynamic Mechanisms and Structural Forms. DCG also includes the study of a new course element, Computer Aided Design (CAD) which involves the use of computer software (SolidWorks) to virtually model products and artefacts.

Assessment and Project Work:

Exam - 60%

DCG Student Assignment 40%.

Subjects that will help with the study of DCG.

If you have studied any of the following subjects at Junior Cert Level it will greatly help: Technical Graphics, Materials Technology Wood, Metalwork, Art and Maths.

Leaving Certificate subjects that complement DCG: Construction Studies, Engineering & Art.

Careers and Future Courses:

DCG is the stepping stone for a career in architecture, interior design, product design, mechanical engineering, Computer Aided Design (CAD, construction management, graphic design, computer game design, carpentry/building apprenticeships, and secondary school teaching.

Need more information?

If you have any questions, talk to your teachers or talk to 5th and 6th year DCG students and ask them about their experiences of the subject.

Engineering

Leaving Certificate Engineering builds on the knowledge, skills, values, and dispositions developed from learners' early education through to the Junior Cycle Engineering curriculum.

The course aims to:

- Foster an awareness of the environmental, social, and economic impacts of engineering decisions and promote sustainable practices.
- Develop the students' capability, accuracy and precision using resources and equipment available in the Engineering classroom in a safe and appropriate manner.
- Foster an engineering mindset, by enhancing creativity, problem-solving skills and design thinking through practical applications to engineering problems.
- Develop students' capacity to effectively articulate ideas, designs, and solutions through various media, enhancing collaboration and engagement.
- Encourage the application of theoretical knowledge in a systematic way.

Key Competencies

- Thinking and Solving Problems
- Communicating
- Working with Others
- Cultivating Wellbeing
- Managing Learning and Self
- Assessment

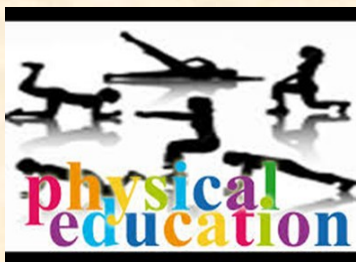


Assessment Structure

Assessment component	Weighting	Level
Design and manufacture project	50%*	Common Brief
Written examination	50%*	Higher and Ordinary Level

Careers

With such a variety of areas covered in the subject it provides an excellent foundation for careers in engineering and construction disciplines including manufacturing, mechanical and civil engineering and also for careers in quality control, design careers and the trades sector.



Physical Education

Curriculum

PE will provide learners with an opportunity to study physical education for the Leaving Certificate examinations. There are two sections to the course.

Section 1	Section 2
learning and improving skill and technique physical and psychological demands of performance, structures, strategies, roles and conventions, planning for optimum performance.	promoting physical activity, ethics and fair play, physical activity and inclusion, technology, media and sport.

What skills are useful in the subject

1. An interest in Health, Nutrition and Physical Movement. Students have to take part in many different sports, so openness to learning is essential.
2. An interest in Science is strongly recommended as the subject has links to Physics, Chemistry, Biology as well as Home Economics and English.
3. An interest in sports and sporting activities

What careers/courses could Physical Education lead to

Sports scientist, PE teaching, Sports coach/consultant, Diet and fitness instructor Physiotherapist, Personal trainer

Important to understand this subject has a high theory content and is not about taking part in sport each day.



Computer Science

Curriculum

The course provides students with an understanding of how computers can be used in technology and in society. This is harnessed through applied exercises where students develop the practical skills of programming and computational thinking to applications. The topics studied are a good foundation in coding for computers/robotics in third level colleges.

What skills are useful for the subject?

- The course will suit students who enjoy puzzling out and solving problems, logical thinking and creating functional objects or programs.
- Students who did well in Mathematics and Science should find themselves suited to Computer Science. The program will build on the analytical thinking and numerate skills developed in primary school and junior cert mathematics.
- Students who will gain the most are those who enjoy creating applications with computers. Examples include working with design software, programming languages, database software, video game creation programs or computer hardware.

What careers does computer science lead to?

- Information Technology
- Physics, Mathematics and all Engineering courses.
- Software developers.
- Robotics.
- Telecommunications.

All those starting 5th year in September 2027 will follow a new Computer Studies curriculum. There is currently little information about this but we expect the existing curriculum to be broadly reflective of what is currently in place. More information will be available as Transition Year progresses



Politics and Society

Curriculum

Power & decision making—power, decision making, leadership, political systems government's, democracy etc.

Active Citizenship—citizenship, community, volunteerism, freedom of speech, ethical communication etc.

Human Rights and Responsibilities—equality, justice, rights, laws around rights etc.

Globalisation and Localisation—culture, globalisation, social equality
diversity, sustainability, environmental protection,

What skills are useful of the subject?

- Interest in current affairs
- Analytical and critical thinking skills
- Concern for others and the world at large
- Good communications skills

What careers does Politics & Society lead to?

- Civil Service—policy analysts etc.
- Politics—advisors/policy makers/politicians
- Diplomats
- Non government organisations
- Human Rights .
- Roles within international organisations



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LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED (LCA)

The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) is a distinct, self-contained two-year Leaving Certificate programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life.

The programme aims to recognise the talents of all students and to provide opportunities for developing personal responsibility, self-esteem and self-knowledge. The two-year programme consists of four half-year blocks called sessions. In each session, modules & tasks are completed and credits are earned. Marks are awarded as below.

Credits	Percentage	Work Required
62	31%	Attendance/ Classwork/ Assignments
70	35%	Student Tasks (Projects)
68	34%	Final Exams

Subjects studied include:

Communications, Maths, Work Experience, Computers, enterprise education, the arts, social education, leisure and language

On completion, students will be awarded a Leaving Certificate which is graded as follows

Level	Marks	Credits Required
Pass	60-69%	(120-139 credits)
Merit	70-84%	(140-169 credits)
Distinction	85-100%	(170-200 credits)

Progression

A student who has been awarded the Leaving Certificate Applied can go on to a very wide range of Post-Leaving Certificate courses (PLCs) such as those on offer in Mallow College. They can also progress to apprenticeship programmes or directly to employment. However, Leaving Certificate Applied cannot be used for direct entry through the Central Applications Office (CAO) system to the universities or institutes of technology. However, students can progress to third level from PLC course.

The New Leaving Certificate

The story so far!

The Department of Education have decided to reform the current Leaving Certificate exams

What is changing?

1. Curriculum—in other words what is taught in each subject is changing. The changes in subjects we know about so far have not been enormous and it is reasonable to expect that changes will be relatively minor in most subjects
2. Assessment– we are being advised that all subjects will now have a project worth 40%. Currently many subjects have a project but the percentages awarded to them varies from subject to subject.

When are the changes happening?

Changes are happening by degrees

From September 2025—All 5th years will be taught the new curriculum in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Business and will continue with the old curriculum in all other subjects

From September 2026—the following subjects will join the above to be taught to all those starting 5th year: English, Accounting, Construction, Engineering, Geography, Physical Education & LCVP. Remaining subjects will continue with their old curriculum.

From September 2027—the following subjects will have a new curriculum for all those starting in 5th year Maths, Agricultural Science, Computer Studies, DCG, History. Home Economics, Music. Remaining subjects will follow their old curriculum.

The following will not affect Transition Years of 2026-27

From September 2028– All 5th years will be taught the new Curriculum in the remaining subjects of Irish. Art, Economics, French, German, Politics & Society—At this point the vast majority of subjects will have new curricula introduced.

September 2029– All 5th years will be taught the new Curriculum in Applied Maths