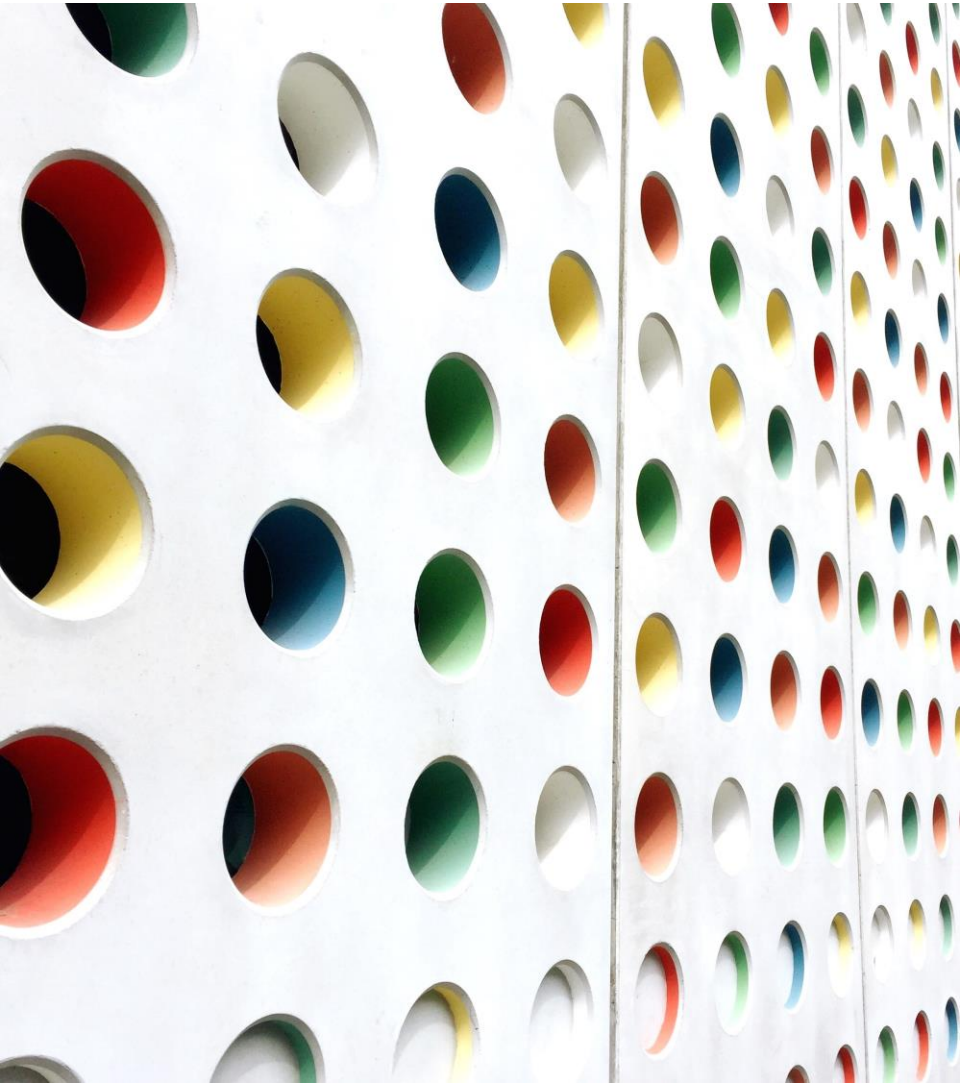


St. Brendan's Community School

TARA CUSACK

GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

CONNECT

Twitter: @stbrendansbirr

Facebook: St. Brendan's Community School

Instagram: stbrendanscsbirr

Website: www.stbrendanscsbirr.ie









ST. BRENDAN'S
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PAST PUPIL PROFILE

CELEBRATING THE JOURNEYS OF OUR PAST PUPILS



Sarah Bracken

CURRENT JOB

Detective Garda

CAREER JOURNEY

- Birr Castle / Kinnitty Castle
- Department of Justice
  - Donnybrook Garda Station
  - Kevin Street Garda Station
  - Birr Castle

A FAVOURITE QUOTE

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

– Eleanor Roosevelt

MEMORIES OF ST. BRENDAN'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL

The memories I value most are those of the school musicals, choir and sports days. As I have gotten older I so appreciate the level of effort the staff put in to giving us opportunities and outlets to enjoy our youth and hobbies together as a community. I also remember my history and religion class very fondly. I learned how to think critically in these subjects and my teachers encouraged me to delve further in my curiosity which has persisted to this day.

ADVICE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS

Make the most of the school environment , being around your peers and friends everyday is such a blessing and it's what you will think of when you get older. While the books are not for everyone, I would recommend finding subjects that you enjoy and really indulge in those. It will make things easier and as for the subjects you dislike, think of getting through them well as a valuable life experience of perseverance and remember nothing lasts forever.

Once a Brendan's, Always a Brendan's







Senior Leadership Team



Ms P.White & Ms T. Cusack



Ms Kate Liffey





Ms. Catherine Ryan AEN Coordinator

catherineryan@stbrendanscsbirr.ie

Mr. O'Connor Year Head

endaoconnor@stbrendanscsbirr.ie

- Athletics
- Chaplaincy
- Philosophy Club
- Chess
- Friendship Group - Chairde
- Equestrian
- Adventure Club
- Cainte Gaeilge
- Rugby
- Library
- Green Schools
- Soccer
  Book Club
- Rugby
- Camogie
  Tennis (Oct)
- Student Voice
- Hurling
- Coding
- Quiet Space / Meditation
- Anime Club
- Badminton

Clubs & Committees




KIPRUN


AIR


Lilliput Adventure
CENTRE


ST. BRENDAN'S
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
GET INVOLVED MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR FIRST YEAR!
1ST YEARS SIGN UP TO ACTIVITIES!
WEDNESDAY
1:30
B10
COME ALONG AND SIGN UP TO SOMETHING NEW!
BASKETBALL
DRAGONS & DUNGEONS
BOARD GAMES
CHESS
ANIME
CREATIVE ARTS
MUSIC
HOMEWORK CLUB
ROBOTICS
AND MANY MORE!
TRY SOMETHING NEW
MEET OTHER FIRST YEARS
MAKE NEW FRIENDS
It's a great way to be part of our school community!
New Year New Opportunities!



Meitheal Leaders



INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITY








INDIAN FOOD
UKRAINE



Homework - Timetable - Lockers - Friendships



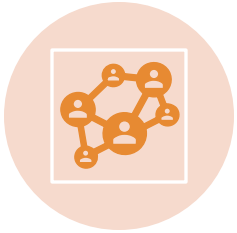
Homework - 1hr to 1.5 hrs



Timetable – Make many copies – Fridge, Car, Phone



Lockers - Encourage students to use lockers



Friendships – Encourage new friends – get to know parents of friends

GOAL SETTING

Every student sets target grades before each set of house exams — at Christmas and in summer.

We use an academic tracking system called **Athena** to monitor progress and performance.

1st Year Summer

5/10 subjects above potential

1st Year Summer

Subject	Result	Grade	Target grade
Mathematics	71 (H)	Higher Merit	MERIT
Religious Education	60	Merit	HIGHER MERIT
English	70	Higher Merit	HIGHER MERIT
Science	80	Higher Merit	MERIT
History	55	Merit	MERIT
Geography	53	Achieved	MERIT
Irish	57	Merit	MERIT
Wood Technology	70	Higher Merit	HIGHER MERIT
Visual Art	80	Higher Merit	DISTINCTION
French	66	Merit	HIGHER MERIT
Average	66.2		

Mathematics

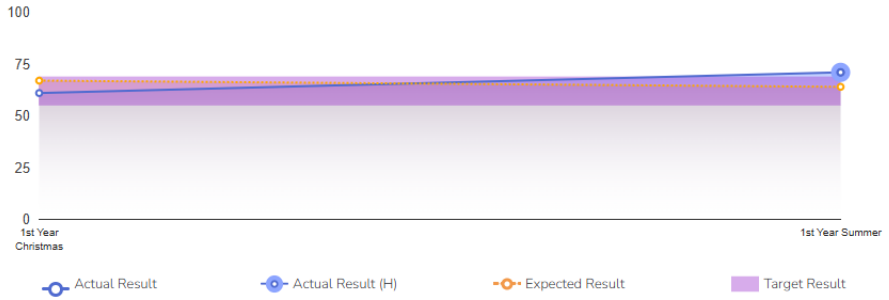
2 items selected

1/2 exams above potential

Target grade: MERIT

Mathematics

Exam	Result
1st Year Christmas	61
1st Year Summer	71 (H)



New Junior Cycle Grading System

Grade	New Grade Bands
Distinction	≥ 85 to 100
Higher Merit	≥ 70 and < 85
Merit	≥ 55 and < 70
Achieved	≥ 40 and < 55
Partially Achieved	≥ 20 and < 40
Non-Graded	≥ 0 and < 20

Junior Cycle



All students will study English, Maths and Irish at either **Higher or Ordinary Level**



Core Subjects (New Junior Cycle): History, Geography, Religious Education and Science at **Common Level**



Choice Subjects (New Junior Cycle): Home Economics, Music, French & German, Business, Visual Art, Wood Technology, Graphics and Engineering. These are studied at **Common Level**



All student will study **Wellbeing**; CSPE, SPHE, PE and Guidance (No exam in these subjects)

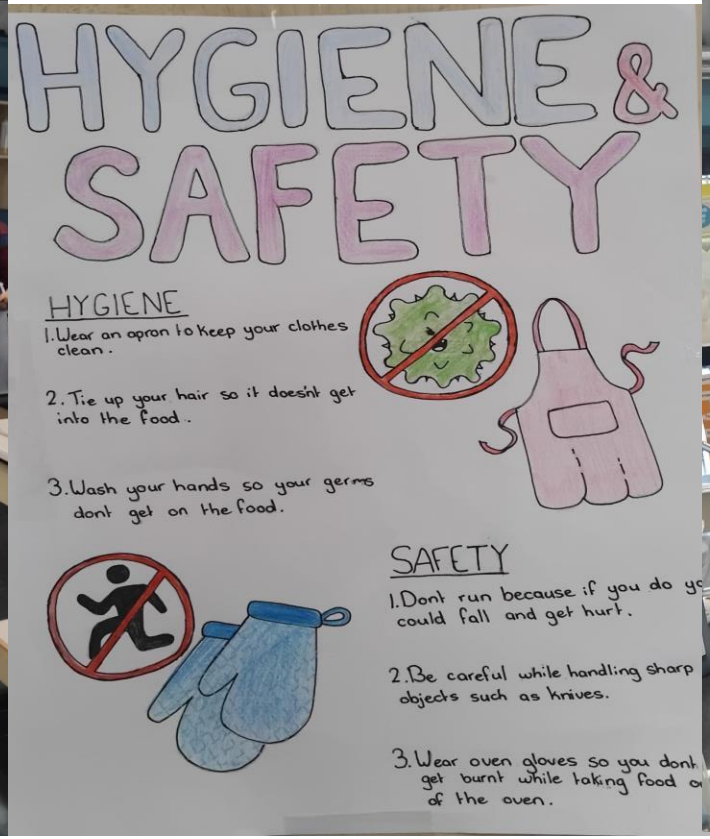
CORE	CHOICE	CHOICE	CORE – NON EXAM
English	Home Economics	French	Physical Education
Irish	Engineering	German	C.S.P.E.
Maths	Wood Technology	Study Skills	S.P.H.E
Geography	Graphics		DL
History	Music		
Science	Visual Art		
Religion	Business		

SUBJECTS



Home Economics







Home Economics; Skills for Life



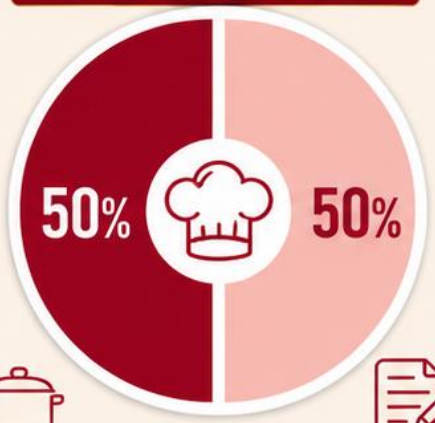


HOME ECONOMICS



Home Economics develops practical life skills through food studies, health and wellbeing, textiles and responsible decision-making.

ASSESSMENT



PRACTICAL FOOD SKILLS EXAMINATION
50%

WRITTEN EXAMINATION
50%

SKILLS DEVELOPED

- Creativity
- Organisation
- Healthy living
- Decision-making

WHERE CAN THIS SUBJECT LEAD?

- Chef
- Dietitian
- Nutritionist
- Early Childhood Educator
- Hospitality Manager
- Fashion Designer
- Occupational Therapist

YOUR CHOICE. *Your Future.*

PRACTICAL SKILLS FOR LIFE

BUILDING CONFIDENCE. CREATING OPPORTUNITIES.





Wood Technology

ST. BRENDAN'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL

WOOD TECHNOLOGY



WHAT IS WOOD TECHNOLOGY?

Students learn to design and manufacture projects while developing creativity and practical skills.

SKILLS DEVELOPED

- Design and creativity
- Practical skills
- Problem-solving
- Safe use of tools

ASSESSMENT

COMPONENT	PERCENTAGE
Practical Project	70%
Written Examination	30%

CLASSROOM-BASED ASSESSMENTS

- CBA 1: Wood Science in Our Environment
- CBA 2: Student Self-Analysis and Evaluation

PROGRESSION

- Construction Studies
- Engineering
- Architecture
- Apprenticeships
- Design

DESIGN. MAKE. ACHIEVE.

TURNING IDEAS INTO REALITY.

...our Choice. Your Future.

PRACTICAL SKILLS FOR LIFE

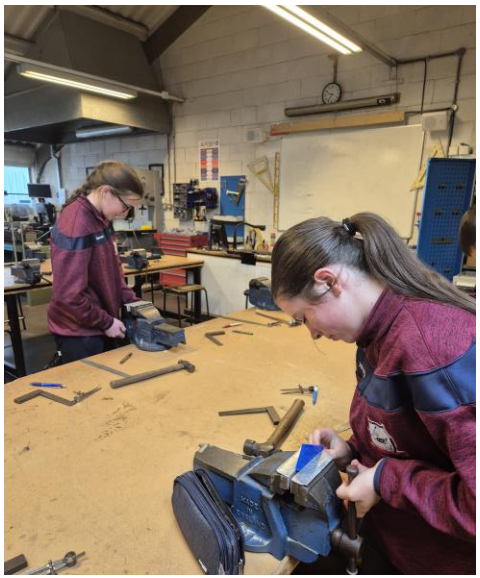
CREATIVITY IN ACTION

BUILDING CONFIDENCE. CREATING OPPORTUNITIES.

ST. BRENDAN'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL



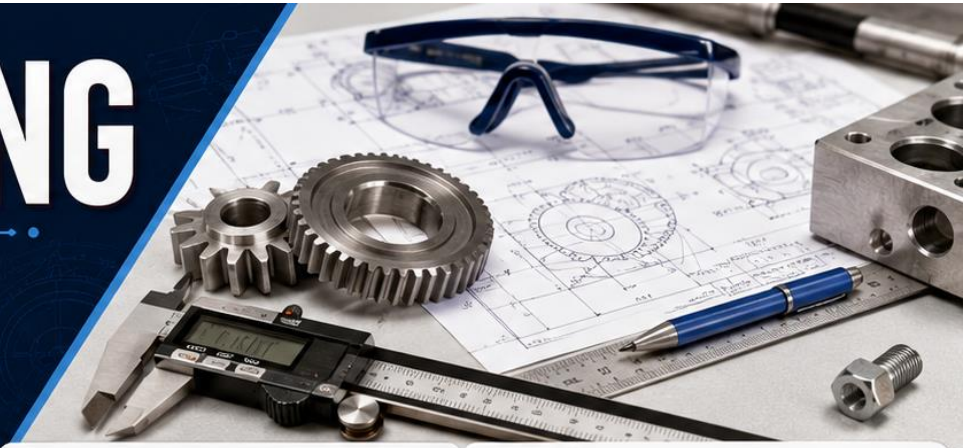




Engineering

ST. BRENDAN'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL

ENGINEERING



WHAT IS ENGINEERING?

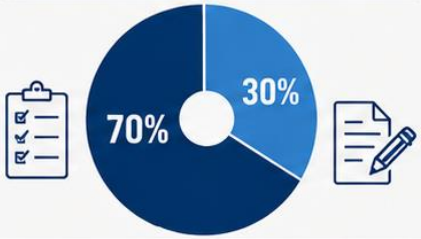
Engineering encourages students to investigate, design and manufacture solutions using a range of materials and technologies.

SKILLS DEVELOPED

- Innovation and creativity
- Design skills
- Practical skills
- Teamwork

ASSESSMENT

COMPONENT	PERCENTAGE
Practical Project	70%
Written Examination	30%



CLASSROOM-BASED ASSESSMENTS

CBA 1:
Engineering in Action

CBA 2:
Student Reflection

PROGRESSION

- Leaving Certificate Engineering
- Apprenticeships
- Mechanical Engineering
- Manufacturing

DESIGN. INNOVATE. CREATE. ENGINEER THE FUTURE.



GRAPHICS

ST. BRENDAN'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL

GRAPHICS



WHAT IS GRAPHICS?

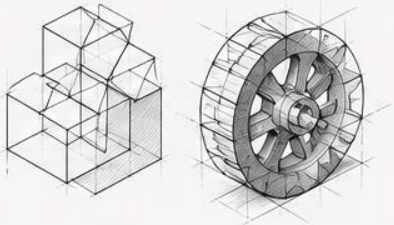
Graphics develops spatial awareness and visual communication skills using both traditional and computer-based methods.

SKILLS DEVELOPED

- Visualisation skills
- Problem-solving
- Computer-aided design (CAD)
- Creativity

ASSESSMENT

COMPONENT	PERCENTAGE
Project Work	30%
Written Examination	70%



CLASSROOM-BASED ASSESSMENTS

CBA 1: Visualisation Test

CBA 2: Design Challenge



PROGRESSION

- DCG
- Architecture
- Engineering
- Product Design

Your Choice. Your Future.

THINK CREATIVELY | DESIGN INNOVATIVELY | SOLVE PROBLEMS | BUILD YOUR FUTURE





Visual Art

ST. BRENDAN'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL

ART

WHAT IS ART?

Art encourages creativity, imagination and self-expression through a variety of media and techniques.



SKILLS DEVELOPED

- Creativity
- Observation skills
- Critical thinking
- Communication

ASSESSMENT

COMPONENT	PERCENTAGE
Coursework and Practical Work	100%

100%

CLASSROOM-BASED ASSESSMENTS

CBA 1:
Visual Research

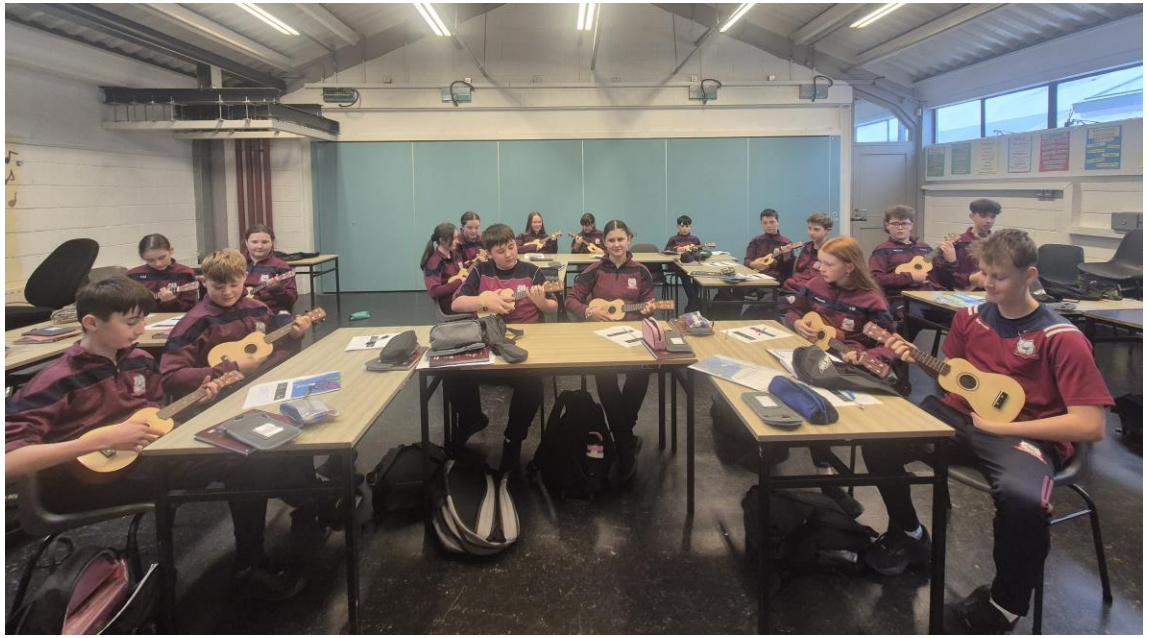
CBA 2:
Artwork and Reflection

PROGRESSION

- Art
- Architecture
- Design
- Animation
- Creative Industries

Express. Create. Inspire.

ART SHAPES IDEAS. IDEAS SHAPE THE FUTURE.





Music

ST. BRENDAN'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL

MUSIC



What is Music?

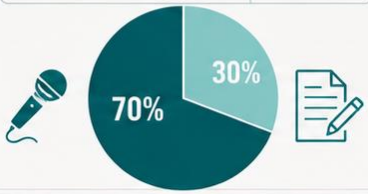
Music develops performance, listening and composition skills while encouraging creativity and confidence.

SKILLS DEVELOPED

- Performance skills
- Creativity
- Teamwork
- Confidence

ASSESSMENT

COMPONENT	PERCENTAGE
Performance and Composition	70%
Listening Examination	30%



CLASSROOM-BASED ASSESSMENTS

CBA 1: Performance

CBA 2: Composition Portfolio

PROGRESSION

- Leaving Certificate Music
- Performing Arts
- Teaching
- Sound Engineering

Listen. Create. Perform. Inspire.

Business







ST. BRENDAN'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL

BUSINESS STUDIES



What is Business Studies?

Business Studies helps students understand money, enterprise and the economy while developing skills for everyday life.

SKILLS DEVELOPED

- Financial literacy
- Communication
- Decision-making
- Enterprise skills

ASSESSMENT

COMPONENT	PERCENTAGE
Written Examination	90%
Assessment Task	10%



CLASSROOM-BASED ASSESSMENTS

CBA 1:
Business in Action

CBA 2:
Enterprise Project

PROGRESSION

- Business
- Accounting
- Economics
- Entrepreneurship

UNDERSTAND TODAY. PREPARE FOR TOMORROW. SUCCEED FOR LIFE.

ST. BRENDAN'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL

STUDY SKILLS

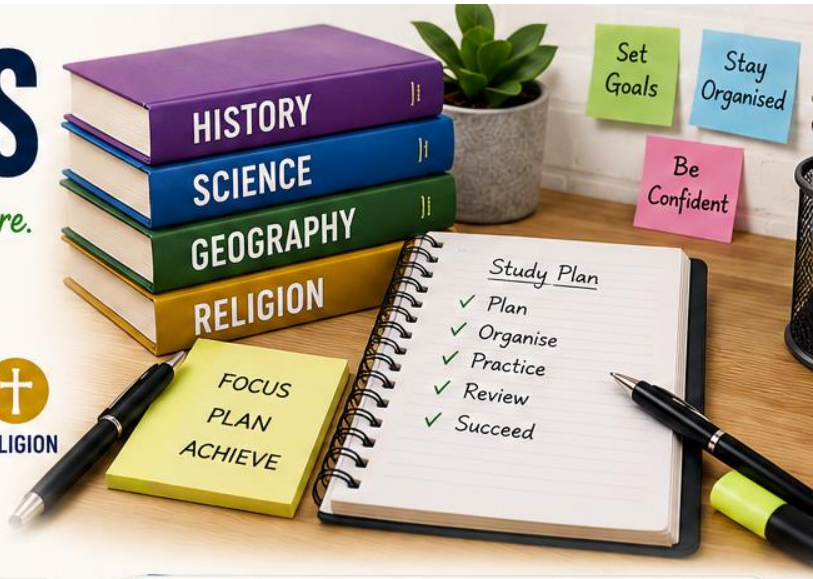
Build Skills. Build Confidence. Build Your Future.

Study Skills is offered for students who may find it difficult in taking on three choice subjects.

This focuses on text heavy subjects for example;

HISTORY | SCIENCE | GEOGRAPHY | RELIGION

It is on the same band as the Languages, hence it is not possible to do a Language and Study Skills.



SKILLS DEVELOPED

- Effective study and revision skills
- Organisation and time management
- Understanding and communication
- Confidence and independence

LITERACY

Reading, Writing, Communication

Developing essential skills for success in school and life.

FOCUS AREAS

- Study techniques and revision strategies
- Understanding and summarising information
- Note-taking and exam preparation
- Research and project skills
- Building good habits for lifelong learning

STRONG SKILLS. BRIGHT FUTURES.

Think | Learn | Plan | Improve | Achieve

Your skills today, your success tomorrow.

Languages - MFL





ST. BRENDAN'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL

MFL FRENCH & GERMAN



Bonjour!

Guten Tag!

What is MFL?

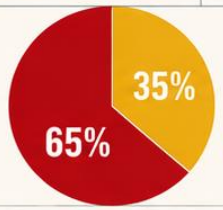
Learning French and German helps you communicate with others, understand different cultures and develop skills for life, study and work.

SKILLS DEVELOPED

- Communication skills
- Cultural awareness
- Memory and problem-solving
- Confidence and independence

ASSESSMENT

COMPONENT	PERCENTAGE
Written Examination	65%
Listening Examination	35%



CLASSROOM-BASED ASSESSMENTS

CBA 1: Business in Action

CBA 2: Enterprise Project

PROGRESSIO

- Business
- Accounting
- Economics
- Entrepreneurshi

Languages connect us. Cultures enrich us. Opportunities await.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

How are Junior Cycle Option Subjects Assessed?

Junior Cycle subjects are assessed through a combination of written examinations, practical work and assessment tasks (AT).

SUBJECT	LEVEL	WRITTEN EXAM	PRACTICAL / COURSEWORK / AT
HOME ECONOMICS	Common	50%	50%
MUSIC	Common	70%	30% (Performance & Composition)
BUSINESS STUDIES	Common	90% (Written Exam)	10% (Assessment Task)
ART	Common	N/A	100% (Coursework & (Practical Work)
FRENCH & GERMAN	Common	65% (Written Exam)	35% (Listening Exam)
WOOD TECHNOLOGY	Common	30%	70% (Practical Project)
GRAPHICS	Common	70%	30% (Project Work)
ENGINEERING	Common	30%	70% (Practical Project)

PRACTICAL SUBJECTS

These subjects involve a significant amount of project work and continuous practical engagement.

- Art 100%
- Wood Technology 70%
- Engineering 70%
- Music 70%
- Home Economics 50%
- Graphics 30%

MORE EXAMINATION-BASED SUBJECTS

These subjects are mainly assessed through written and listening examinations and/or assessment tasks.

- Business Studies ..... 90% (Written Exam) / 10% (Assessment Task)
- French & German ..... 65% (Written Exam) / 35% (Listening Exam)

Understand. Prepare. Achieve.

Your effort today, your success tomorrow!

Bonjour!

¡Hola!

COLLEGES THAT USUALLY REQUIRE A 3RD LANGUAGE



KEEPING YOUR COLLEGE OPTIONS OPEN

THE MAIN GROUP IS THE NUI UNIVERSITIES (National University of Ireland)

- UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN (UCD)
- UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK (UCC)
- UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY
- MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY
- ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND (RCSI)

Why choose a language?

- Keeps more CAO options open
- Meets entry requirements for many university courses
- Develops communication and cultural awareness
- Highly valued by employers

IN THESE COLLEGES, A 3RD LANGUAGE IS PART OF THE MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR MANY DEGREES SUCH AS:

- Arts
- Law
- Social Science
- Commerce (Business)
- Medicine & Health Science

Common courses that usually do NOT require a third language

🎓 **Courses That Usually Do NOT Require a Third Language**

✓ Engineering
✓ Science
✓ Nursing
✓ Agriculture
✓ Computer Science
✓ Many Health Science Courses
✓ Apprenticeships

📌 **Important**

Requirements can vary between colleges and courses.
Choosing French or German keeps the widest range of options open, but many excellent career pathways do not require a third language.

COLLEGES THAT DO NOT GENERALLY REQUIRE A 3RD LANGUAGE

Many great courses. More choice. Your future.

MORE OPTIONS MORE OPPORTUNITIES

THESE COLLEGES USUALLY DON'T HAVE A BLANKET 3RD LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

- **Trinity College Dublin (TCD)** — (Some courses may still require it)
- **Dublin City University (DCU)**
- **University of Limerick (UL)**

TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITIES

- **Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin)**
- **South East Technological University (SETU)**
- **Atlantic Technological University (ATU)**
- **Technological University of the Shannon (TUS)**
- **Munster Technological University (MTU)**

IN THESE COLLEGES, MOST COURSES:

- Don't need a 3rd language
- BUT specific courses (like languages or some arts degrees) might

KEY FACT

Only about **10%** of courses actually require a 3rd language.

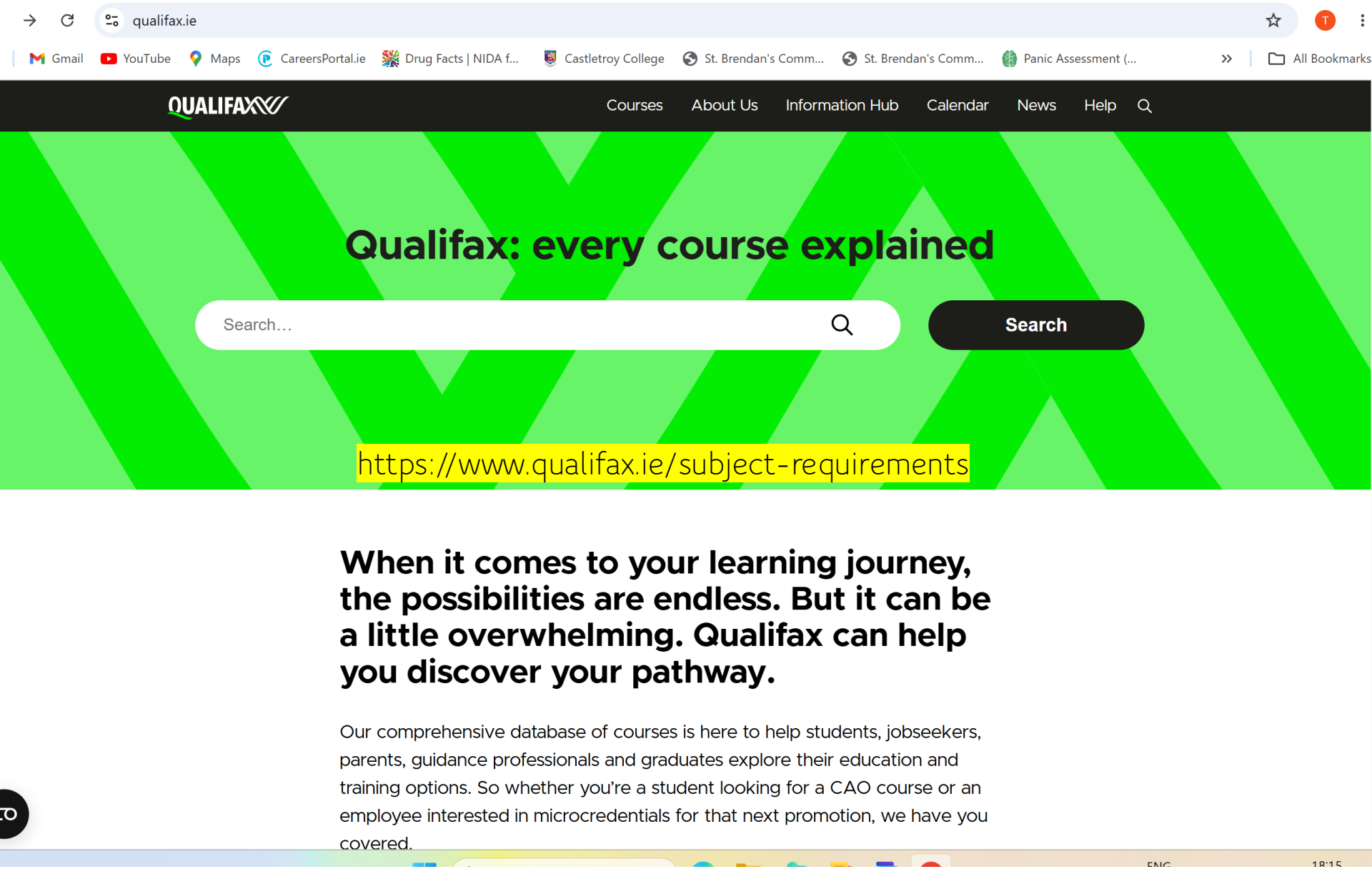
The majority of courses in Ireland don't require one.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

- You still have lots of options without a 3rd language.
- Choose subjects you enjoy and are good at.
- Keep your future pathways open!



Choose your path. Follow your passion. Create your future.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YouTube
Maps
CareersPortal.ie
Drug Facts | NIDA f...
Castletroy College
St. Brendan's Comm...
St. Brendan's Comm...
Panic Assessment (...
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When it comes to your learning journey, the possibilities are endless. But it can be a little overwhelming. Qualifax can help you discover your pathway.
Our comprehensive database of courses is here to help students, jobseekers, parents, guidance professionals and graduates explore their education and training options. So whether you're a student looking for a CAO course or an employee interested in microcredentials for that next promotion, we have you covered.

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Career Guidance tools for all

Join to create a Career Profile

Discover your Career Interests

Match your Interests to Careers & Courses

START HERE! MORE INFO

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by Course Title or Code...

by College here...

SEARCH COURSES



School

I am a second level student re-



Graduates

I am an undergraduate / gradu-



Adult Learners

I want to return to education

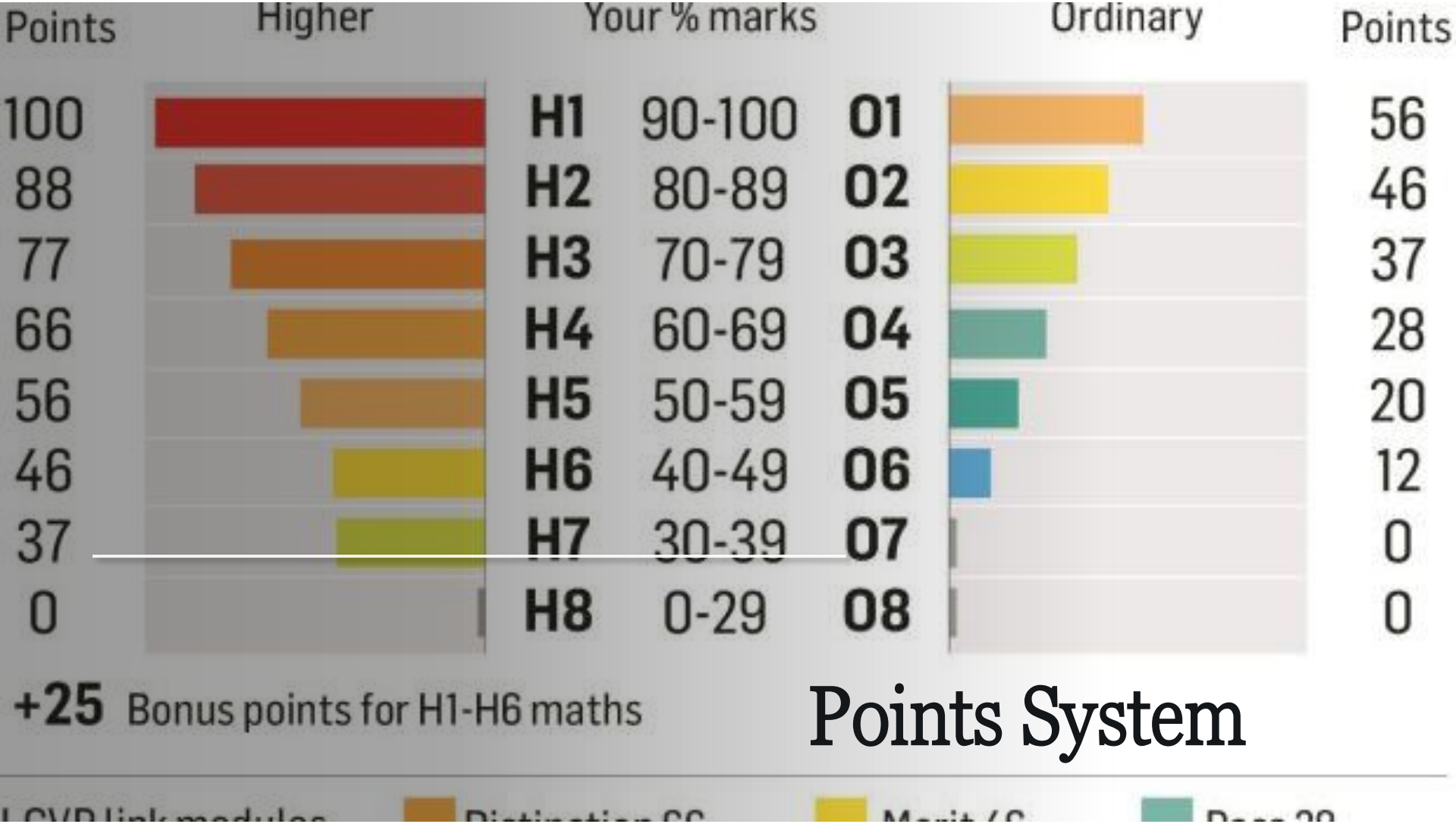


Interested in the Reach programme for Junior and/or

Search

ENG UK

06/10



Points System

BUILDING INDEPENDENCE

Small steps today. Big confidence tomorrow.

1 ALLOW



Allow your child to solve small problems themselves.

It helps them learn, build resilience and believe in themselves.

2 ENCOURAGE



Encourage them to talk to teachers if they need help.

Asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness.

3 SUPPORT



Support them in managing their own timetable and homework.

Good organisation today leads to less stress tomorrow.

4 GIVE



Gradually give more responsibility at home.

More responsibility builds confidence, skills and maturity.

HELPING YOUR CHILD BECOME MORE INDEPENDENT

- Problem-solving skills
- Confidence and resilience
- Organisation and responsibility
- Preparation for senior cycle and adult life

Together, we can help our children grow into independent, confident young adults.

STAY CONNECTED

Working together for your child's success

MAINTAIN



Maintain good communication with the school.

Stay informed.
Your involvement makes a difference.

ATTEND



Attend parent-teacher meetings and information evenings.

Be involved.
Stay connected.

ENCOURAGE



Encourage positive friendships.
Get to know parents of their friends.

A strong community supports every child.

Together, we can help your child

LEARN • GROW • THRIVE

Subject Choice Online Form: Order of Preference

1.Every student must select Science (next)

2. Pick three subjects - Put the one you want the most down first (next)

3. Pick a fourth subject as a backup (next)

4. Submit

Students are not guaranteed Engineering AND Wood Technology


QUESTIONS?