



SENIOR CYCLE IN LCC

FEBRUARY 24TH 2026





PROGRAMME FOR THE EVENING

-
- **Welcome and Introduction Denise McNamee**
 - **Leaving Certificate Programmes - Jane Barry**
 - **Q&A – Submit in the Q&A section. Answers will be available under the Parent section of our website from tomorrow afternoon or in real time during the presentation.**

LEAVING CERTIFICATE

Subjects

- Most students will take eight subjects
 - **4 Core Subjects and 3 Option Subjects and Link Modules.**
 - Core subjects include: English, Irish, Mathematics and a Third Language – French/Spanish/German.
- Points for the Leaving Certificate Examination are allocated to the six best grades, these grades must be achieved in **one sitting of the Leaving Certificate Examination**
- **All subjects carry equal points (Maths is the exception and exams through Irish)**
- Entry to a college course will be granted to those holding the highest number of points.

19 Subject Options

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Accounting | 7. Construction Studies | 14. Music |
| 2. Art | 8. Design & Communication Graphics | 15. Physics |
| 3. Biology | 9. Economics | 16. Technology |
| 4. Business Studies | 10. Engineering | 17. PE |
| 5. Chemistry | 11. Geography | 18. Politics and Society |
| 6. Computer Science | 12. History | 19. Applied Mathematics |
| | 13. Home Economics | |

Link Modules- Life Community & Work

- **Life, Community and Work** is a **school module for senior cycle** (5th and 6th year) that helps students:
 - Understand themselves — strengths, interests, goals.
 - Explore **career options**, the world of work and planning for life after school.
 - Engage with their **local community** and develop real-world skills.
 - Build **personal, social and work-related skills** that matter beyond exams.
- It is part of the **redeveloped Senior Cycle** and is being introduced as a replacement for the traditional Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) Link Modules.

Choosing Subjects for Positive Reasons

- What are my interests and aptitudes?
- What subjects am I most interested in?
- What subjects do I most enjoy?
- What subjects am I likely to do best at?
- **What subject will I need?**
 - Make a list of potential career areas and Third Level Courses you are interested in – www.qualifax.ie
 - Keep a balanced choice – keep options open
 - Do not overspecialise – you may change your mind about possible careers many times in the next two years.

Choosing Subjects for Negative Reasons:

- What teacher may be teaching it
- If your friend is taking the subjects
- If an older sibling disliked the subject
- The perceived difficulty of the subject
- “Just because it’s hard does not mean it’s not worth doing”
- The amount of work that may be required
- Unsure of future relevance in career

The Points System

- Points are allocated to the six best grades of an applicant
- These grades must be achieved in **one sitting of the Leaving Certificate** Examination
- **All subjects carry equal points (Maths is the exception as well as students who sit subjects through Irish)**
- Entry to a course which is competitive will be granted to those holding the highest number of points.
- The number of points required for any course in any year is not pre-set by any college.
- Entry requirements for Third Level courses vary from course to course, so you must refer now to the relevant literature of to the university website.

The Leaving Certificate Grading System

Higher Level Grade	Ordinary Level Grade
H1 (90-100)	O1 (90-100)
H2 (80 < 90)	O2 (80 < 90)
H3 (70 < 80)	O3 (70 < 80)
H4 (60 < 70)	O4 (60 < 70)
H5 (50 < 60)	O5 (50 < 60)
H6 (40 < 50)	O6 (40 < 50)
H7 (30 < 40)	O7 (30 < 40)
H8 (0 < 30)	O8 (0 < 30)

The Common Points Scale

Higher Level Grade	Points	Ordinary Level 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

Role of Parents

- Be informed, assist with the research process, become familiar with college websites and qualifax.
- Support their dreams and passions with realistic planning.
- Discuss ambitions and encourage them to look to the future – stay involved
- 72% of students cite parents as their most significant influence for future career and CAO choices
- Be aware of various grant and support schemes (SUSI, DARE, HEAR... www.accesscollege.ie)
- Some useful websites
 - www.qualifax.ie
 - www.cao.ie
 - www.careersportal.ie

Link to Vsware for choosing option subjects

- Subject Option Forms will be completed on VS Ware, please contact the office ASAP if you cannot log into your child's vsware profile.
- On March 2nd parents/guardians can access this form and should assist your son/daughter in completing it.
- Six subjects in all must be listed in order of preference 1-6
- There will be a deadline for completing the online form - 13th March 2026
- Every effort will be made to give students their top choices but this cannot be guaranteed so it is important that students fill in all 6 preferences.

Subject Bands

- Once all forms are completed we will then proceed to create the subject bands.
- Each year we have different subject bands as they are determined by the students' preferences.
- An **example** of subject bands is as follows:
 - History, Biology, Music, Engineering, Geography, Home Ec, Technology
 - Biology, Chemistry, Art, Construction, Pol/Soc, Business, Geography
 - Physics, Tech, Biology, History, PE, Computer Sc, DCG, Applied Maths
- Students can only have one subject from each band as these classes take place at the same time.
- Unfortunately, if a student's first two choices are on the same band they will not be able to study both unless one of these subjects appears on another band.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED

What is the Leaving Certificate Applied?

- It is a Leaving Certificate with a practical approach to teaching and learning.
- It is a 2 year Leaving Certificate programme divided up into 4 semesters.
- It is designed for those students who do not wish to proceed directly to university or for those whose needs, aspirations and aptitudes are not adequately catered for by the other established Leaving Certificate programme.

What is the rationale for the Leaving Certificate Applied?

- Prepares students for adult and working life
- Recognises talents of all pupils
- Promotes communication and decision making skills
- Applies knowledge and skills to the solution of real problems

The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

How Am I marked?

Satisfactory Completion of Modules	68 credits
7 Tasks	74 credits
Final Written Exams	58credits
Total	200 credits

Certificate is awarded at 3 levels:

Distinction	170-200 credits
Merit	140-169 credits
Pass:	120-139 credits

Curriculum/Subjects

Vocational Preparation	Vocational Preparation & Guidance English & Communications
Vocational Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mathematical Applications• 2 Specialism Modules (detailed on next slide)• 2 Elective Modules (detailed on later slide)• Introduction to ICT
General Education	Arts Education – Music and Drama Social Education Languages – Gaeilge and Modern Foreign Language Leisure & Recreation
	Career Guidance Tutorial

Specialisms (Students do 2 from the following – subjects are dependent on student demand and resources available)

- Engineering
- Technology
- Hair & Beauty
- Childcare/Community Care
- Graphics & Construction
- Office Admin & Customer Care
- Horticulture
- Hotel Catering & Tourism
- Active Leisure Studies
- ICT
- Craft & Design

Teaching and Learning in LCA



Cross Curricular: Working on tasks across a number of subjects.



More hands on involvement in classes, opportunity to collect credits (marks) as you go along.



90% Attendance Required



Trips, Workshops, Speakers, Work Experience



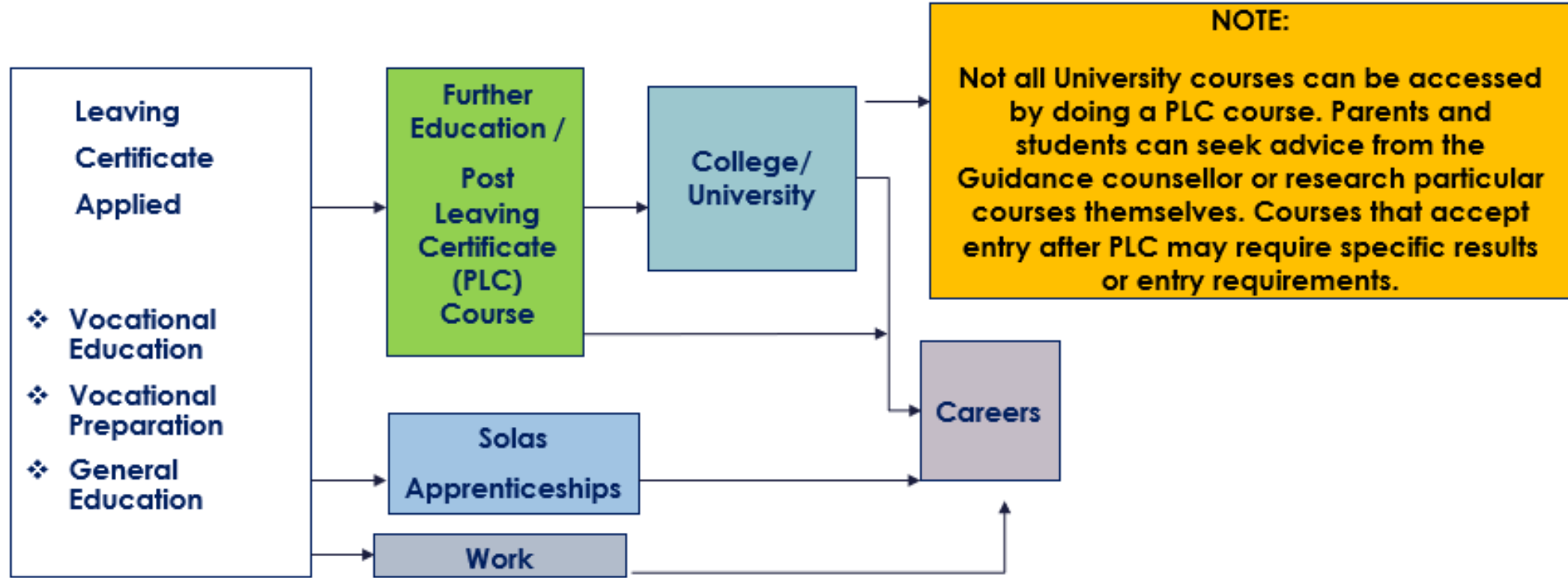
Collaboration: Working with your teachers and other students to gain practical and social skills

Recent Changes in Leaving Certificate Applied

Maths and Modern Foreign Language

From September 2022, students who undertake the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme can opt to take **Leaving Certificate** Maths and a Modern Foreign Language should they require it as an entry requirement for a particular course.

The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) Route Map



Next Steps – Application process

2026	
In Class Time	Students will be informed about LC and LCA programme options
Feb 25th 2026 (LCA)	Application Forms to apply for LCA available from the main office . It will be assumed that students who do not fill in a form for LCA are opting for traditional LC
March 11th @3.45pm 2026 (LCA)	Closing date for submitting LCA application forms at 3.45pm. Application forms must be handed into the office and receipt given. Please retain receipt for proof of acceptance.
March 19th (LCA)	Posting of Offer letters for LCA
March 26th (LCA)	Acceptance of LCA place - acceptance form must be handed into the office and receipt given. Please retain receipt for proof of acceptance.
March 20th 2026 (LC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject Options Forms open for Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme to be completed online.
April 3rd 2026	Closing Date for subject options for Leaving Certificate

THANK YOU
