

Leaving Certificate Life, Community and Work

What It Is?

The **Leaving Certificate Life, Community and Work** (LC LCW) is a *redeveloped Leaving Certificate programme* being introduced in schools from **September 2026**. It replaces the **Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)**. It is offered to all students.

We recommend that students exempt from Irish would take this subject on as their 7th subject; many students opt to take this as an 8th subject to allow them to maximise potential.

Core Focus Areas

LC LCW emphasises *holistic preparation for adult life* by combining learning in:

- **Life skills** — personal wellbeing, problem-solving, decision-making.
- **Community engagement** — participation, social responsibility, volunteering.
- **Work readiness** — career exploration, employability skills, understanding workplaces and modern work culture.

This broad approach goes beyond enterprise and work preparation which was involved in LCVP to include citizenship and social awareness.

Assessment & Grading

Assessment in LC LCW is **entirely coursework-based**, with students completing tasks and activities throughout the two years of senior cycle. Unlike LCVP, there is **no written exam**. Students are graded on a *four-point grading scale* — **Distinction, Merit, Pass, or Not Achieved** — based on their completed work.

Benefits of LC LCW

- ✓ Promotes lifelong skills that are useful in *work, further study, and community life*.
- ✓ Encourages active citizenship and social responsibility.
- ✓ Recognises diverse strengths and learning styles.
- ✓ Reduces emphasis on high-stakes exams, supporting wellbeing.
- ✓ Still recognised as part of the Leaving Certificate Senior Cycle.

The new specification is available [here](#)