Manor House School

Leaving Certificate

Subject Choice Advisory Meeting

March 2026

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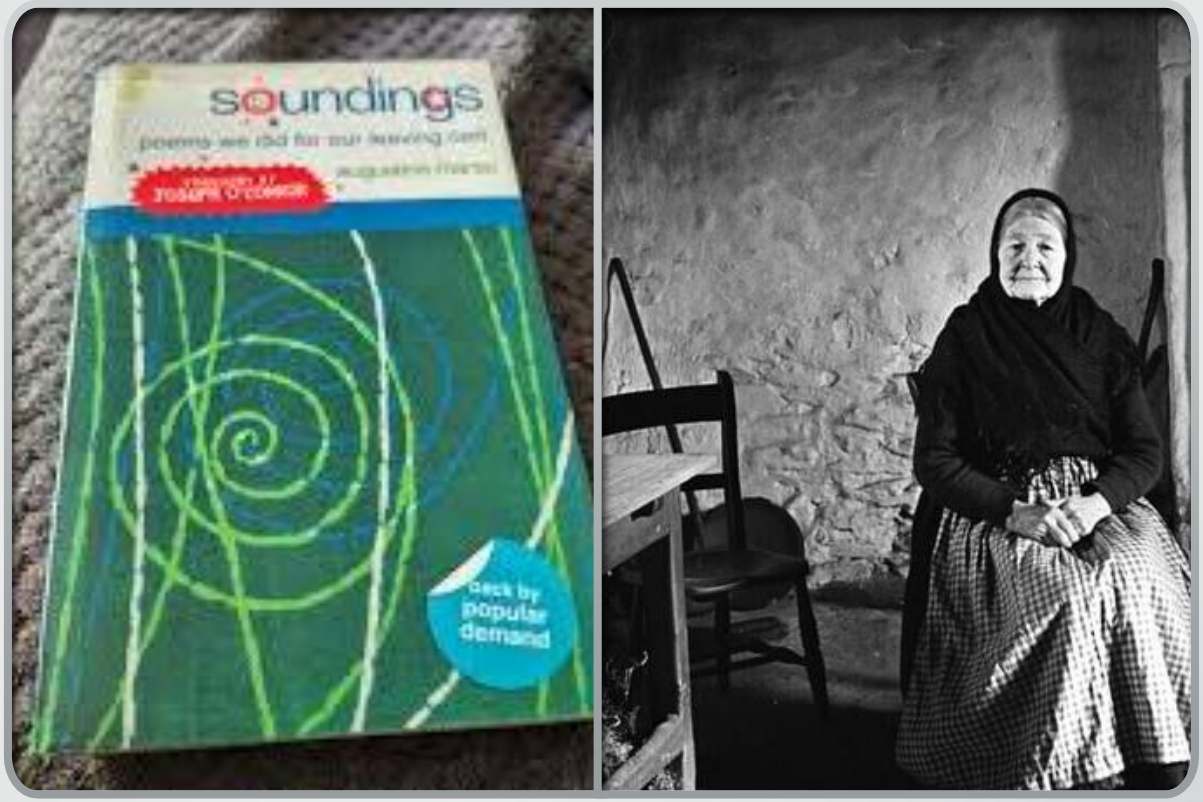
Guidance Counsellors

Our Presentation Tonight: 2 Parts

- Senior Cycle Redevelopment and Subject Choice for Leaving Certificate 2028
- CAO and College requirements



The Leaving Certificate you did is very different to the one your daughter will sit in June 2028!
Senior Cycle is changing!

What is Senior Cycle Redevelopment?

The Vision

"To empower students to meet the challenges of the 21st century, enrich the student experience, broaden choice, reduce pressure and burden".

SENIOR CYCLE REDEVELOPMENT:

- Tranche 1 subjects commenced September 2025- revised curriculum (called 'specifications

  Business, Biology, Chemistry, Physics (Relevant to MH)

- Tranche 2 subjects commence September 2026 - Geography and LCW

  LCW (Life, Community Work) is the new name for LCVP

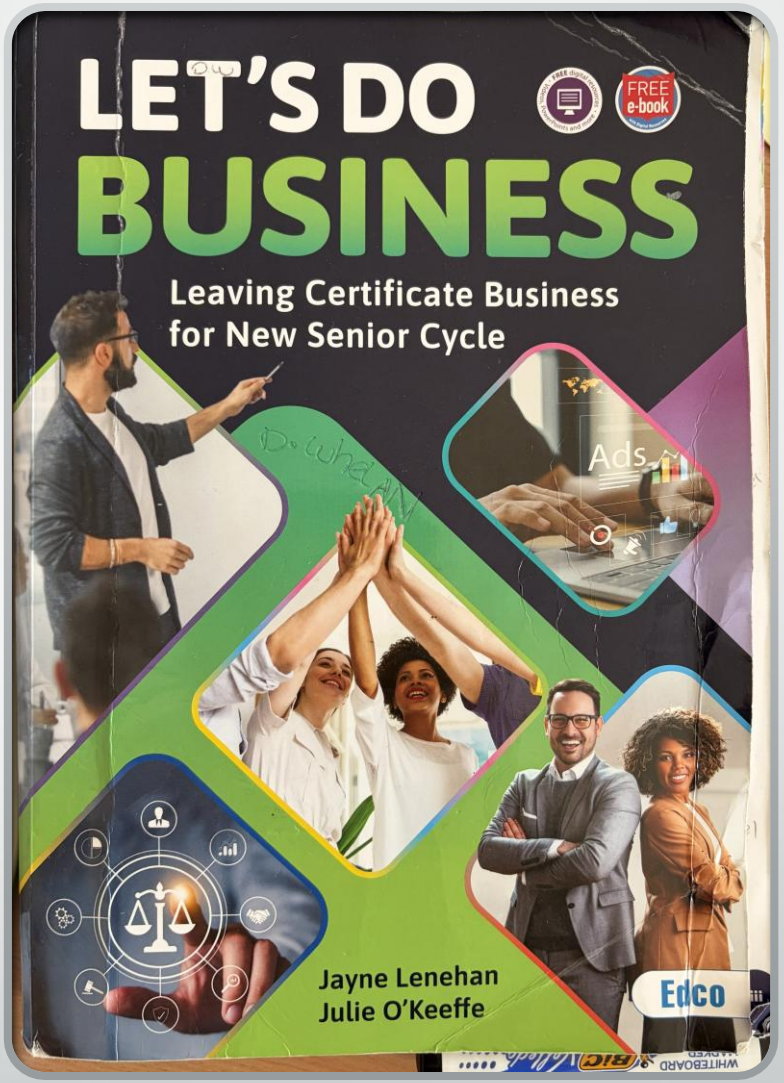
  (Relevant to MH)

- Additional assessment component's will be externally assessed by the State Examinations Commission.

- The Additional Assessment Components will be called AAC's

Business as an Example Tranche 1 2026 (Current 5th Years)

- Higher and Ordinary Level
- 180 hours over 2 Years



Assessment

Each component will be set and examined by the State Examinations Commission

Assessment Component	Weighting	Level
Additional Assessment Component (AAC)	40%	Common Brief
Written examination	60%	Higher and ordinary level examination papers.

Principles for Authentic AACs

- Coursework is a school-based activity, integrated into the regular teaching and learning of the classroom.
- Coursework must be the candidate's own authentic and individual work.
- Candidates are required to behave ethically and with integrity in their engagement with coursework
- Candidates must complete their coursework in line with the subject brief and under the supervision of the class teacher.
- The class teacher is responsible for the regular supervision, monitoring and oversight of candidates' coursework
- The subject in which the coursework is being completed must be timetabled by the schooh

Principles for Authentic AACs

- These principles ensure academic integrity
- They enable the teacher to authenticate the coursework and authorise its submission to the SEC (State Examinations Commission)
- The school principal is responsible for the final verification of candidates' coursework in line with the rules and procedures, confirming that robust and consistent processes (See Appendix 7) have been applied to the completion and oversight of the coursework in the school.
- Click to read Leaving Certificate Coursework Rules & Procedures

Importance of Careful Subject Choice

Subjects chosen for Leaving Certificate should be

- Subjects that they like
- Subjects that suit their interests/strengths/abilities.
- Subjects that they may need for their future career choices
- Subjects that meet college entry requirements and specific subject requirements for Universities and Third Level Colleges.

Subjects for Senior Cycle

Compulsory

- English
- Irish
- Maths
- European Language

(Irish /language exemptions carry forward to Leaving Cert)

All subjects carry equal points

EXCEPT

HL Maths- Bonus 25 points

(40% -H6 grade or higher)

Subject Choice for Senior Cycle Optional Subjects

Students choose three additional subjects from the following options

Accounting, Business, Economics

Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Ag Science

Art, Music

Home Economics

Geography, History,

Politics and Society

LCW: Life,Community &Work (extra optional subject)

- LCW replaces LCVP from September 2026
- Focus on community/enterprise& employability skills
- Externally assessed project/portfolio
- Final written exam
- Earns CAO points
- Final assessment structure to be confirmed (Under LCVP 60%-Written exam 40% Portfolio)
- Limited places (max 24)
- Good Attendance a key requirement

Life Community & Work LCW

Points for LCW:

Distinction 66 (equivalent to H4 on Hons paper)

Merit 46 (equivalent to H6 on Hons paper)

Pass 28 (equivalent to O4 on Ord level paper)

Subject Choice Exhibition

- Subject Choice Carousel for Senior Cycle in Gym (Wednesday March 4th)

- Opportunity for students to meet/talk to teachers from Science, Business, Humanities and Practical subjects.

- Opportunity to talk to 5th year students who are studying the choice subjects
- Resources, textbooks, exam papers on display

Time to answer any questions or give further information if needed.

Subject Choice for Senior Cycle

You DO NOT choose subjects based on the belief that it is an easy subject or that your friends are doing that particular subject.

How to choose subjects

- Be familiar with the range of subjects available
- Look up previous reports and tests from various subjects to confirm ability in subject.
- Have a look at the senior cycle textbooks in various subjects.

How to choose subjects

- Link talents to subjects
- Talk to teachers/siblings/friends studying subjects

- Choose a good mix of subjects to keep your college and career options open (especially if your daughter has no idea of what she would like to study)

- one Business subject,
- one Science subject
- one other will cover most options

Restrictions on Subject Choice for Senior Cycle

- It is **strongly recommended** that students have studied Science at Junior Cycle if they wish to pick a Science subject at Leaving Cert level.

Restrictions on Subject Choice for Senior Cycle

- Students may not start a new European language in fifth year – they continue with the language they did for Junior Cycle and TY

Remember……

- Limited resources and numbers applying for subjects may mean some students could be disappointed with the subjects available to them
- Every effort is made to make sure as many students as possible get their top choices

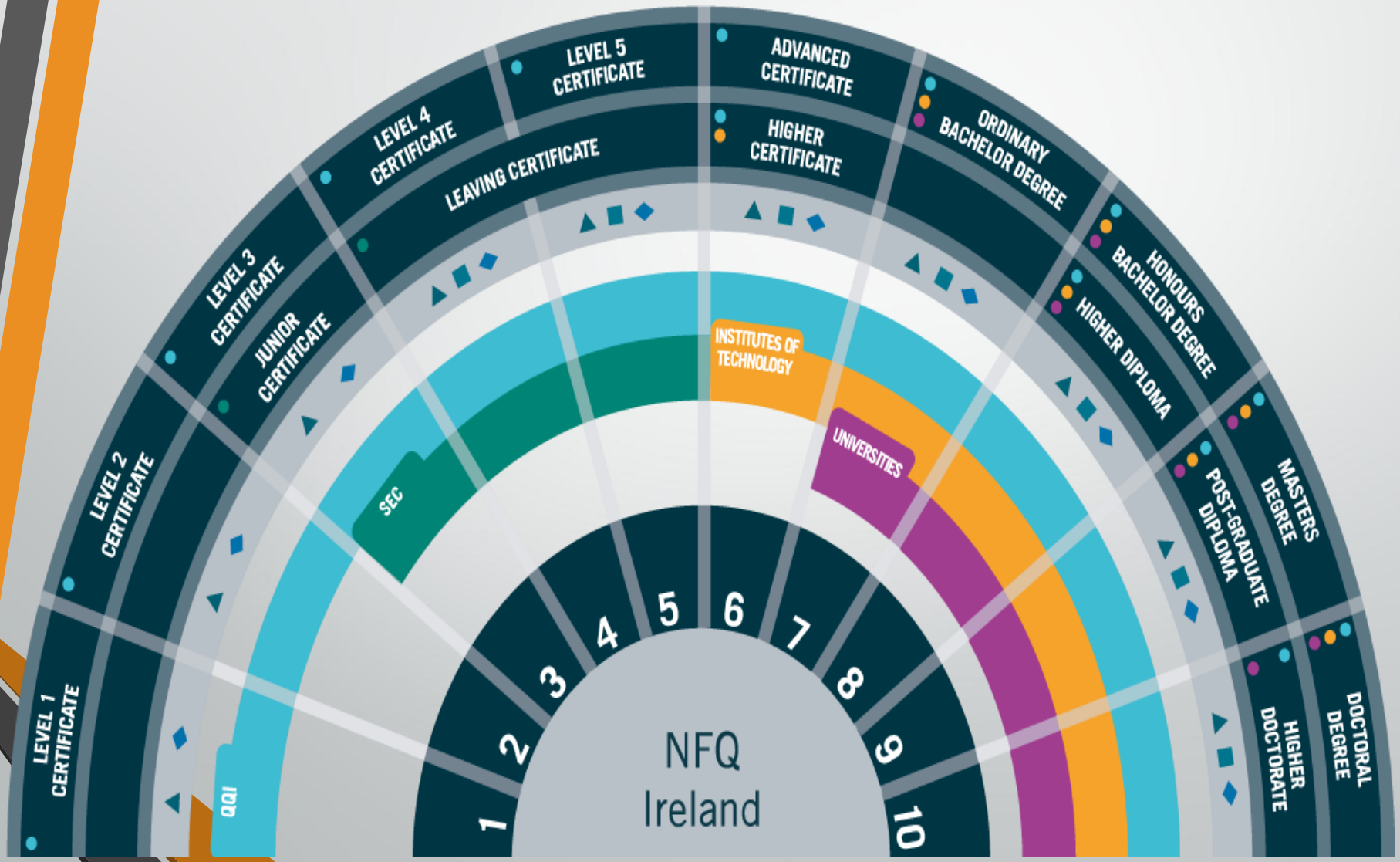
OPTIONS ON VS WARE

- Options are made through your vs ware.
- Log onto vs ware and click on Options.

Recap:

- Students will study 4 Optional Subjects for Leaving Certificate (including the language they completed for JC)
- Please choose the Modern Language as your number 1 choice.
- Please then choose 3 optional subjects in order of preference
- Please note that the order of preference does make a difference and number two will have priority over number three etc. We will endeavour to ensure that students will study their preferred subjects, **but we cannot guarantee this**.
- We will speak to students/parents if we are unable to provide all subjects requested

National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)



College Entry Requirements

Level 8 - Honours Degree - 3 or 4 Years

(2xH5 & 4xO6/H7 plus Specific Subject Requirements &Points)

Level 7 - Ordinary Degree - 3 Years

((2xH5 and 4xO6 /H7 plus specific Subject Requirements & Points)

Level 6 – Higher Certificate -2 Years

(5xo6/H7 for TUD)

Level 6- 2 Year PLC course.

Level 5 - PLC Course 1 year

(Min 5 xo6 (including Foundation Level)

Application to Third Level Colleges

- CAO – Central Application Office

  (CAO Application to Universities/T U Dublin/ Institutes of Technology/ some Private Colleges)

- ONE application form – 44+ Colleges

  1200+ courses

- Best six subjects in any sitting of one Leaving Cert examination

www.cao.ie

College Entry Requirements

- Minimum entry requirements
- Subject requirement for your chosen course

  (e.g H4 Honours Irish Primary Teaching)

- Academic entrance requirements

  POINTS in the CAO system

  (Science Education -434 Points)

  (Points change every year)

CAO Points System for LEAVING CERTIFICATE

Percentages	Higher Level	Higher Points	Honours Maths	Ordinary Level	Ordinary Points
90-100	H1	**100**	125	O1	**56**
80-89	H2	**88**	113	02	**46**
70-79	H3	**77**	102	03	**37**
60-69	H4	**66**	91	04	**28**
50-59	H5	**56**	81	05	**20**
40-49	H6	**46**	71	O6	**12**
30-39	H7	**37**	37	O7	**0**
0-29	H8	**0**	0	O8	**0**

Calculation of CAO points example

4 X H4 = 4 X 66 = 264

2 X 04 = 2 X 28 = 56

Total of best 6 subjects = 320 points

If Hons Maths is included

4 XH4 (4x 66)=264 +25=289

2 X 04 (2 x 28)= +56

Total345 Click here for: Careers Potral Points Calculator

What careers/courses are you interested in pursuing?

Fields of Study

- Leisure/Travel
- Medical/Paramedical
- Travel/Tourism
- Social Science

Useful choices

- Biology/Geography
- Science subjects
- Languages/Business/Geography
- Home Economics / Geography/ Pol &Society

What careers/courses are you interested in pursuing?

Fields of Study

- Business
- Law
- Engineering/Science/ Technology

Useful choices

- Accounting/Business/ Economics/Politics &Society
- History / Politics& Society
- Science –Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Agricultural Science

Science Entry Requirements for Third Level courses

- Students aspiring to any third level course of study in Engineering/Medical/Paramedical/Science/ Technical areas at University need to have at least one of Biology/Physics/Chemistry/Ag. Science

NO Science required for

- LAW
- ARTS/ HUMANITIES
- SOCIAL SCIENCE
- BUSINESS
- ART

….but check all course requirements on the College website / prospectus very carefully.

Science Entry Requirements for Third Level courses

Some courses specify a particular Science subject or two Science subjects, so check college and course requirements carefully

The following are examples of Science requirements -

Science Entry Requirements for Third Level courses

- A Science subject is required for Nursing – preferably Biology
- A pass in one Science subject is required to study Science in UCD, UCC. NUIG Maynooth University, TUD and DCU
- A H5 grade in Chemistry is required for entry to

  Veterinary Medicine in UCD ,

  Pharmacy in Trinity

  Human Nutrition and Dietetics in TUD
- Geography – accepted as a Science subject for SCIENCE degree ONLY in TCD and UCD for some courses
- **NB – unwise to study Science at Third Level with ONLY Geography & NO Lab Science subjects

Science Entry Requirements for Third Level Courses

- Two Science subjects are required for entry to most Science based courses in Trinity

  - Dentistry (2 Sciences)

  - Medicine

  -Pharmacy

(two out of Physics /Chemistry/Biology/ Agricultural Science/ Maths)

- Some courses require specific grades so check carefully.

Science in Trinity College

Some courses require specific grades and subjects so check carefully

BEWARE

- TCD does NOT accept combination of BIOLOGY and AG. Science as two separate Science subjects.
- From 2027 onwards, Ag Science will not be accepted as one of the two Science for TR063 Physical Science course

General Science Course requirements

- SCIENCE IN TCD

  Any two Physics/Chemistry/Biology/ Ag. Science/ Maths /Geography

- SCIENCE in UCD

  Any one of Physics/Chem /Biology/Ag. Science/Geography

- SCIENCE in DCU

  Any one of Physics/Chemistry/Biology/Ag. Science.

- SCIENCE in T U Dublin/Institutes of Technology

  Any one of Physics/Chemistry/Biology/ Ag. Science

Maths Entry Requirements

- Maths is a basic entry requirement for many courses
- Extra 25 points for HL Maths but MUST achieve at marks of 40% or higher.
- 37 Points awarded for marks 30-39% but no extra bonus points
- A pass in Foundation Maths is accepted by many colleges *if there is no Maths content in the course of Study.*
- Some courses do not require any specific Maths grade. (Law/ Arts/ Social Science/ Art)

Language Entry Requirements for Third Level

- English ,Irish and a European language are requirements for entry to the National University of Ireland

  (UCD, UCC, NUI Galway and Maynooth University)

- For most courses in these colleges you must have Leaving Cert Irish – not foundation level

Some exceptions are

(a) NCAD which will accept Art instead of a language

(b) Engineering and some Science courses in UCD and Maynooth University do not need Language

(c) Nursing in UCD will accept English and one other language

Language Entry Requirements for Third Level

- Any Two languages from English, Irish, European language- are required for entry to Trinity College and Dublin City University
- Specific courses in these colleges may have additional language requirements

e.g Business Studies International in DCU

(French/German/Spanish…)

requires H_4 in Language other than English or Irish.

Language Entry Requirements for Third Level

- A H4 in Irish is required to train as a Primary School Teacher in Ireland.

  (Other routes available)

- Individual courses may have SPECIFIC Language requirements

- No Foreign Language requirement for some courses in UCD including Science, Nursing and Engineering.

Research Websites

- www.qualifax.ie
- www.careersportal.ie

  (Very Good subject choice information)
- www.cao.ie
- www.examinations.ie
- www.curriculumonline.ie/Senior-cycle/
- College websites–

  (www.ucd.ie /www.tcd.ie /www.dcu.ie/ www.tud.ie etc)

Further Research

- www.qualifax.ie
- www.careersportal.ie

  **very good information on subject choice
- College Websites.

  (www.ucd.ie)(www.tcd.ie) (www.dcu.ie)……

GOOD LUCK !

Any issues with subject choice in vsware contact admin@manorhouseschool.com