



**FIFTH YEAR
OPTIONS EVENING
12th March 2026**

Agenda

- Context: Career Classes, Subject Options Fair, Online Booklet & Q&A in class or careers office.
- Senior Cycle Redevelopment, Tranche 1 & 2 - Subjects changing
- Entry requirements for careers
- College courses
- Apprenticeships & Further Education Courses (CAO Changes)



Leaving Certificate Programme

Students take seven subjects in the Leaving Certificate programme



All students take

English

Maths

Irish*



Students then choose FOUR more from optional subjects available in our school.



These should be subjects that the student will enjoy, suit the way they learn and ideally provide a basis for future careers.

What am I naturally good at?

- Learning things off
- Working things out/Problem Solving/Logic
- Investigating
- Doing/Creating
- Do I like the subject?

What does the above tell me about what subjects I should choose?

- www.careersportal.ie Career tests available here



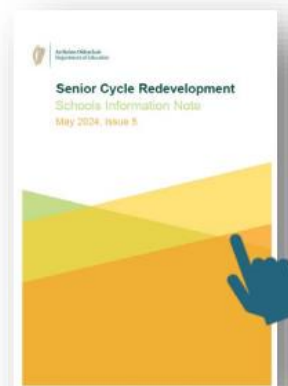
Senior Cycle Redevelopment

Additional Assessment Components:

- Each of the new and revised subject specifications will incorporate additional assessment components (called AACs).
- These components will not be a traditional written examination.
- AACs will be assessed by the State Examinations Commission (S.E.C).

Min.
40%
marks for
additional
assessment
components

(Department of Education, November 2023)



(Department of Education, May 2024)

Assessment Design and Development

Additional Assessment Components

In addition to the final examination, each subject will have an Additional Assessment Component (AAC) worth at least 40% of the available marks. The State Examinations Commission (SEC) has been challenging itself to design and develop assessment components that;

- appropriately test students' skills, competencies and knowledge
- facilitates learning through, and by, doing
- can be integrated into teaching and learning
- seek to balance issues of validity and reliability with manageability for the student; the teacher; the school authority and the wider system.

- **2026 Subjects**

1. Biology
2. Business
3. Chemistry
4. Physics
5. Geography
6. Construction Technology

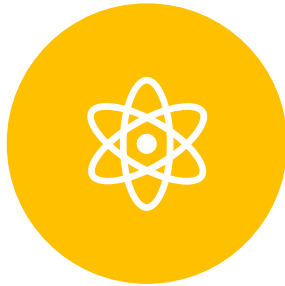
Science subjects



Agricultural Science



Chemistry



Physics



Biology

Laboratory science subjects

- Biology
 - Written exam: 60%
 - AAC (Additional Assessment Component) 40%
 - Is the study of life
- Chemistry
 - Written exam: 60% , AAC 40%
 - Is the science of matter
- Physics
 - Written exam: 60%, AAC 40%
 - The study of the physical environment



Agricultural Science



- Acceptable as a science subject for nursing and most science courses.
- Sustainability and climate change.
- Project: 25%
- Written exam: 75%

CHEMISTRY



VETERINARY MEDICINE



HUMAN NUTRITION



PHARMACY (usually 2 science subjects)



MEDICINE (usually 2 science subjects)



DENTISTRY (usually 2 science subjects)

Must have one laboratory science subject for:

All science
courses

All nursing
courses

Medicine
(doctor)

Some sports
courses

Engineering
courses

Physiotherapy

Dentistry

Dietetics
(study of
nutrition)

Pharmacy

Radiography

Business subjects

Business

Written Exam , 60%, AAC 40%

Accounting

Business subjects

BUSINESS

- AAC = 40% Min. Written Exam = 60%
- Four areas: people, enterprise, environment, technology.

ACCOUNTING

- No project work, the exam is worth 100%.
- Topics: Club Accounts, Farm Accounts, Service Firms, budgeting and Costing



Humanities



HISTORY



GEOGRAPHY



ART



HOME
ECONOMICS



MUSIC



History

- The written exam is worth 80%
- 20% is for Project Work
- History is divided into the study of
 - **Irish History**
 - **European and World Wide History**

Home Economics

- **20%** of the exam is for Cookery Assignments.
- **80%** of the exam is a written paper.





Geography



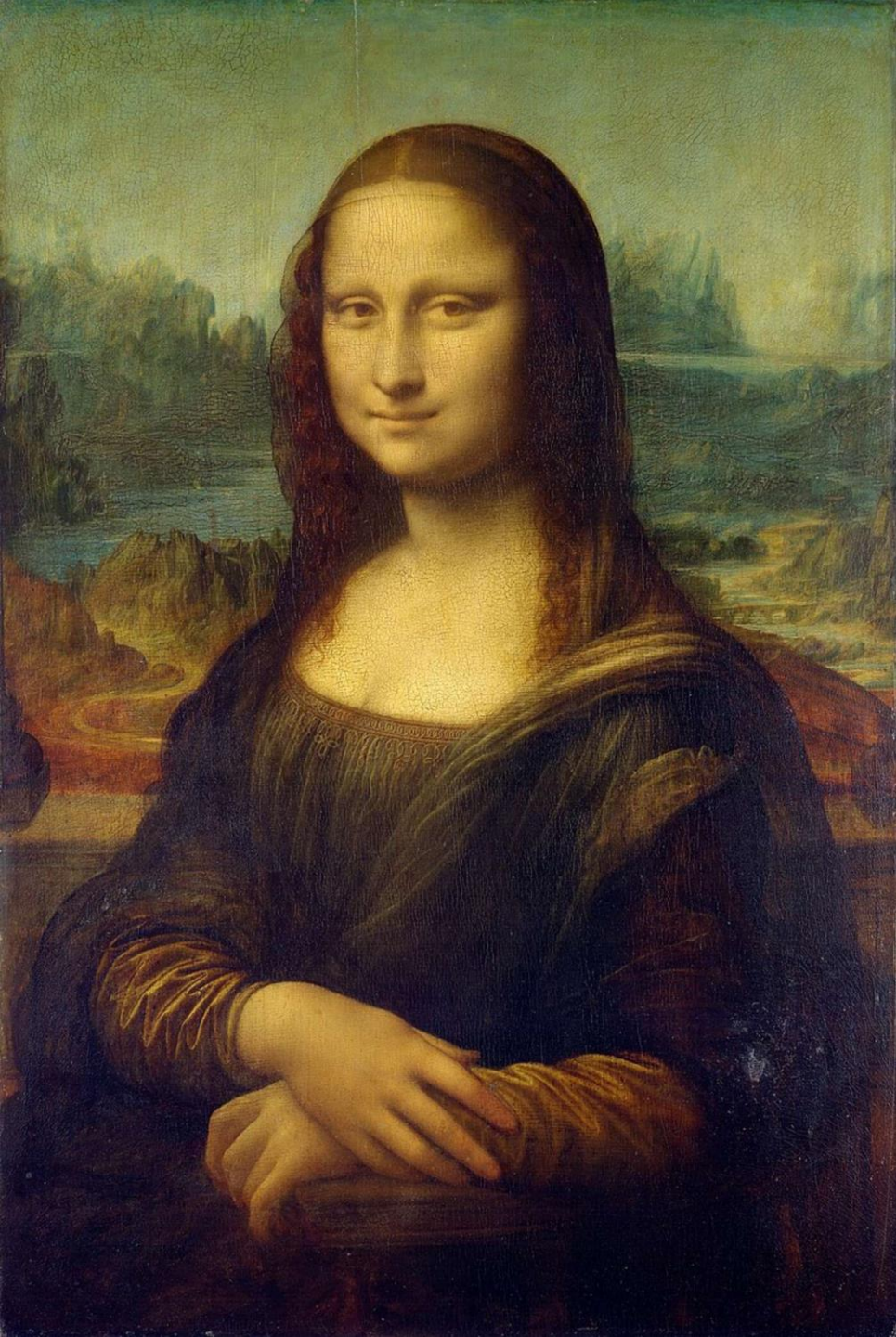
Leaving Certificate Geography is the study of **people** and the **environment** around them.



AAC worth 40% of exam.



Written exam worth 60%



Art, Craft & Design

- Best suited to a student who is lively, enthusiastic and observant, already showing an interest in art and craft.
- Craft work practical exam: 60%
- History of Art written exam: 40%



Music

- The written exam is worth 50%
- Performing practical exam worth 50%
- It is an advantage to be able to play an instrument or sing and to have an interest in listening to all types of music

Languages



FRENCH



GERMAN

Do I need a language?



Third Language is no longer a requirement for all University courses.



Needed for a number of courses in NUI Colleges (UCD , UCC, Galway U & MU)

Arts – Bachelor of Arts
Psychology
Social Science
Medicine
Dentistry



189 (approx) courses must have third language in LC . See qualifax.ie/ Careersportal.ie



If you like languages you will do very well!

Why choose a language ?

1. Opens up the world as over 400 million speak German & French
2. Enhance employment prospects
3. Useful in the culinary ,fashion and cultural world
4. Opportunities in German/French universities
5. Assistance from outside the classroom with LC orals, assistants in the school and trips to both countries

Practical subjects

Construction
Technology

Design &
Communication
Graphics

Course Content- Construction Technology

**STRAND 1 - THE BUILT
ENVIRONMENT**

**STRAND 2 - DESIGN,
MATERIALS, AND CRAFT SKILLS**

STRAND 3 - BUILDING FABRIC

**STRAND 4 - SERVICES AND
CONTROL TECHNOLOGY**

Careers in Construction Technology

Construction Technology may be valuable in a variety of careers, which might include:

All Engineering

Construction Industry

Interior Design

Architecture

Building Services

Quantity Surveyor

Town Planning

Teaching

Property Development

<u>Construction Technology</u>		
Assessment Component	Weighting	Level
Exploring the Constructed Environment	30% of Marks	Common Brief
Craft Skills Assessment Written Examination	20% of Marks 50% of Marks	Common Prescribed Task Higher and Ordinary Levels

Exam Structure

- **Exam Structure**

-

There are three assessment components: a written examination and two additional assessment components, Exploring the Constructed Environment and a Craft Skills Assessment.

- In the written examination, Leaving Certificate Construction Technology will be assessed at two levels, Higher and Ordinary.

- The written examination paper will include a selection of questions that will assess, appropriate to each level:

-

DCG



DCG Course Overview

The Design and Communication Graphics course makes a unique contribution to students' cognitive and practical skills development. These skills include graphicacy/graphic communication, creative problem solving, spatial abilities/visualisation, design capabilities, computer graphics and CAD modelling



There is a great emphasis in the Leaving Certificate course on comprehension, analysis and problem solving. In simple terms, you must be able to understand what has to be done, analyse how you are going to approach it and then proceed to solve the problem.



Although it is not an essential subject for either architecture or engineering, it is regarded as a useful subject if you are thinking of a technical course.

Exam Structure

- One Terminal Exam Paper: 60%
Student Assignment: 40%
- **Terminal Exam:** 3 hours duration.
- **Student Assignment** Emphasis on:
 1. Elements of design
 2. Communication graphics
 3. Use of ICT in design
- Different theme for Higher and Ordinary level

<u>Design & Comm Graphics</u>	Higher	Ordinary
Written Paper	1 Paper - 60% of Marks	1 Paper - 60% of Marks
Project	1 Paper - 40% of Marks	1 Paper - 40% of Marks

Apprenticeships

- Many apprenticeships now available.
- Register with SOLAS
- On the job and off the job training.
- Find an employer or Solas will refer student.
- Training allowance
- No fees.
- World wide recognized qualification.



New apprenticeships

Auctioneering and Property Services

Laboratory Technician

Laboratory Analyst

Geo Driller

Accounting Technician

Insurance Practitioner

International Financial Services Associate

Butcher

Chef De Partie

Commis Chef

Sous-Chef

Cybersecurity



Options after School

- University Courses @ Levels 8, 7 & 6
- Private Colleges
- Further Education (FE)
- Apprenticeships
- Failte Ireland
- Agricultural Colleges
- Employment



More information

- Course info – www.qualifax.ie
- Career info – careersportal.ie
- Apprenticeships.ie
- Subjects – Options Fair
- Guidance Counsellor
- Online Subject Information Booklet available on School website

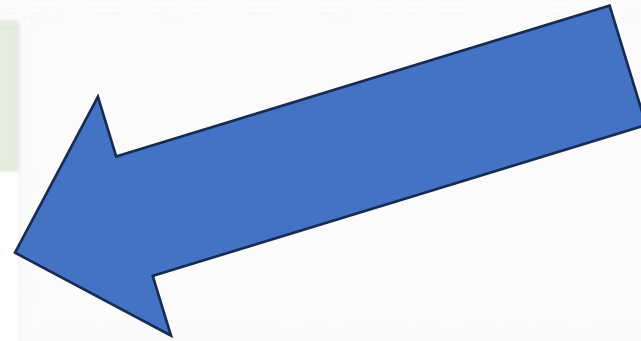
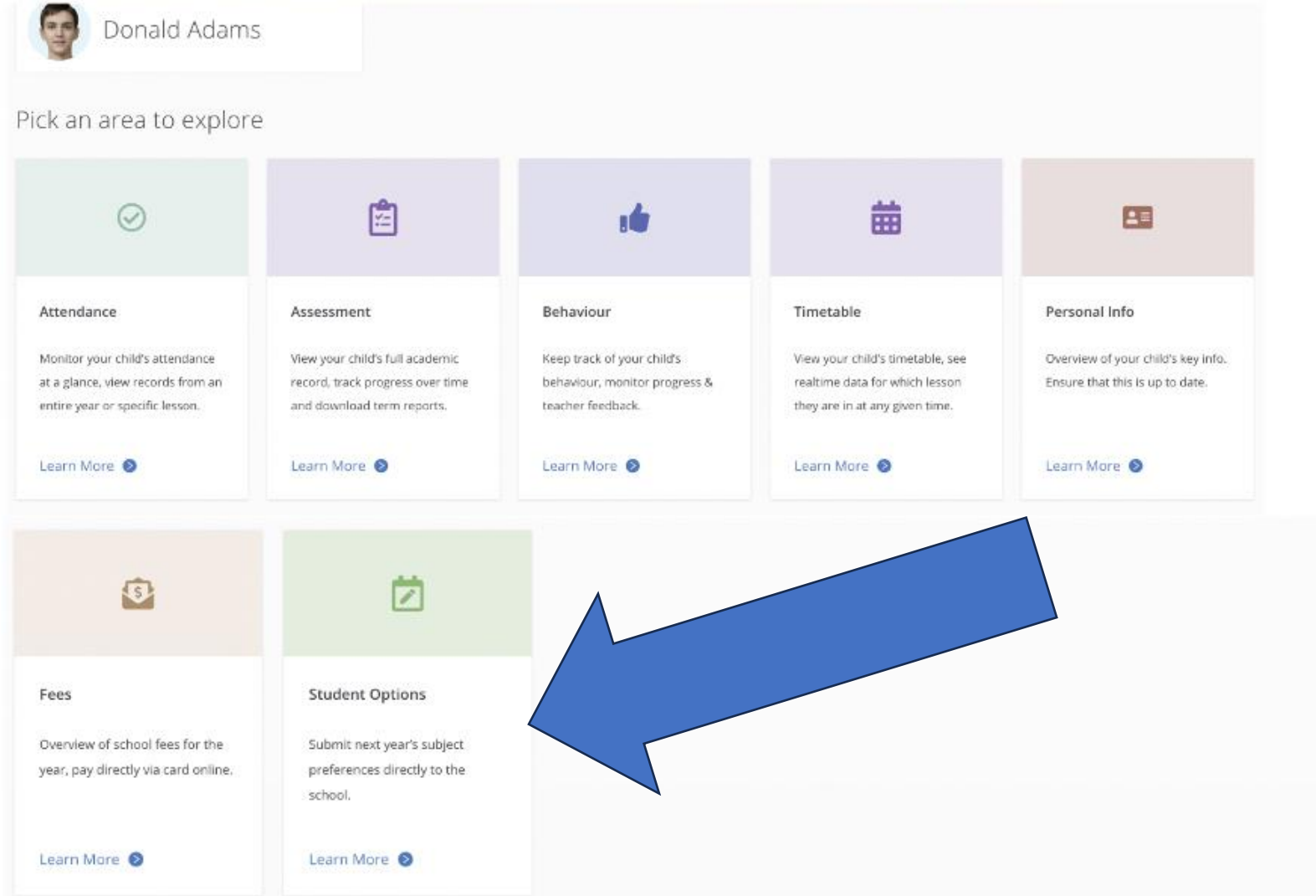
www.pdlsbagenalstown.com



Selecting your Options on vSware

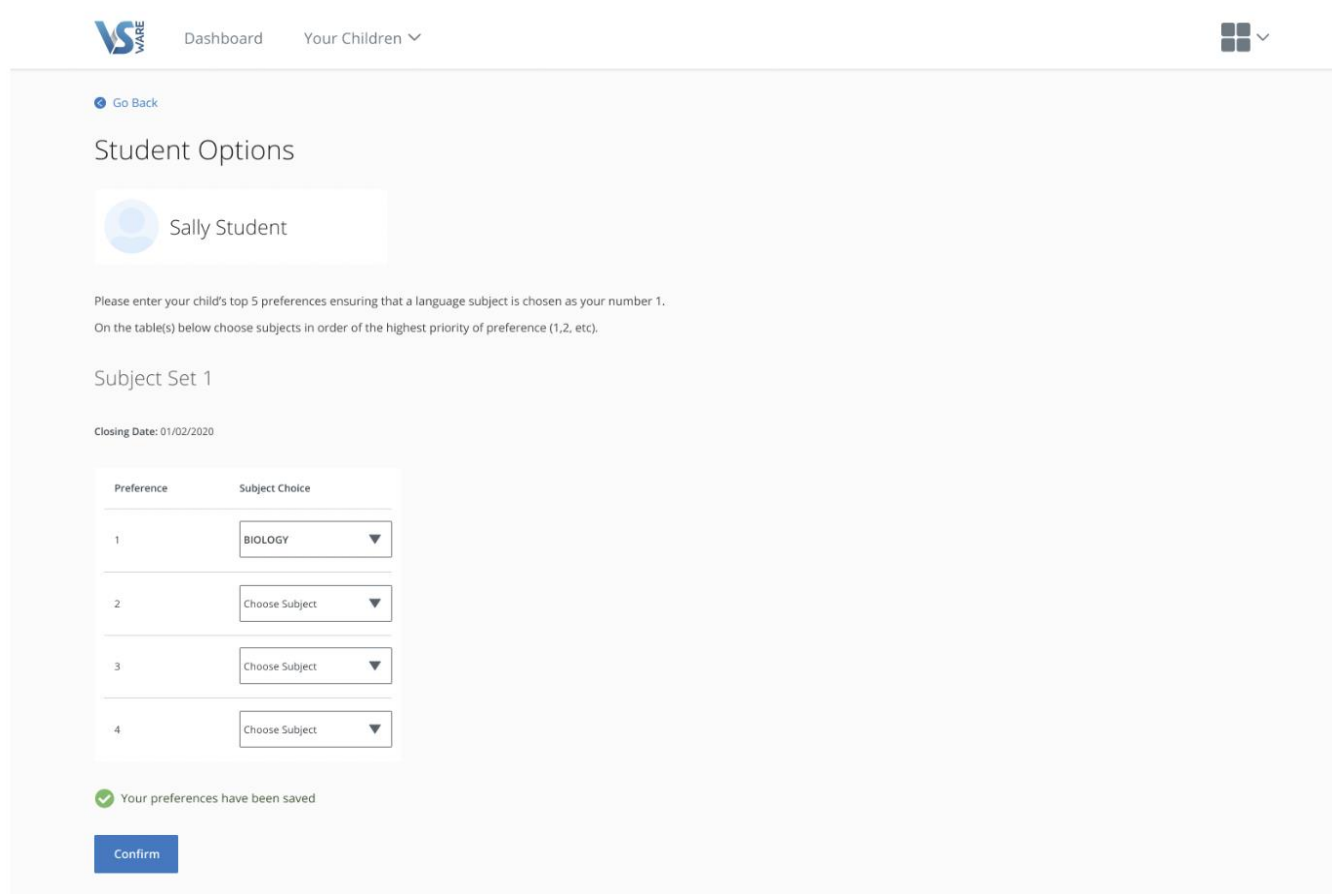
Entering student options

To get to Student Options page, select your **child's name** from the parent dashboard or from the 'Your Children' dropdown and then click '**learn more**' under **Student Options**.



Entering you're child's options is straightforward.

- For each subject choice, select a subject from the **dropdown** boxes in order of the highest priority if preference.
- Hit **Confirm** and the choices will be saved and sent to the school.



The screenshot shows a web interface for 'V-SWIRE'. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Dashboard' and 'Your Children' (with a dropdown arrow). A user icon with a dropdown arrow is on the right. Below the navigation bar, there's a 'Go Back' link. The main heading is 'Student Options'. Underneath, there's a profile card for 'Sally Student' with a blue circular avatar. Below the profile card, there's instructional text: 'Please enter your child's top 5 preferences ensuring that a language subject is chosen as your number 1. On the table(s) below choose subjects in order of the highest priority of preference (1,2, etc).' The section is titled 'Subject Set 1'. Below this, there's a 'Closing Date: 01/02/2020'. The main form is a table with two columns: 'Preference' and 'Subject Choice'. It contains four rows. The first row has '1' in the 'Preference' column and 'BIOLOGY' in the 'Subject Choice' column. The second, third, and fourth rows have '2', '3', and '4' in the 'Preference' column and 'Choose Subject' in the 'Subject Choice' column. At the bottom of the form, there's a green checkmark icon followed by the text 'Your preferences have been saved'. Below this, there's a blue 'Confirm' button.

V-SWIRE Dashboard Your Children

Go Back

Student Options

Sally Student

Please enter your child's top 5 preferences ensuring that a language subject is chosen as your number 1.
On the table(s) below choose subjects in order of the highest priority of preference (1,2, etc).

Subject Set 1

Closing Date: 01/02/2020

Preference	Subject Choice
1	BIOLOGY
2	Choose Subject
3	Choose Subject
4	Choose Subject

✓ Your preferences have been saved

Confirm



Presentation De La Salle College Bagenalstown

info@pdlsbagenalstown.com 059 9721860



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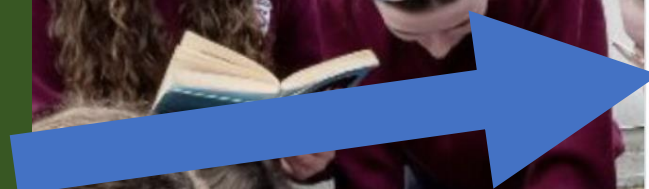
Careers

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Quick links

**PDLS SUBJECT
OPTION
BOOKLETS
CAN BE
FOUND HERE:**



Careers
CAO info for LC 2026

Careers Portal

PDLS Alumni Podcast Season 1

PDLS Alumni Podcast Season 2

Study/Work Abroad

PDLSB Subject Options

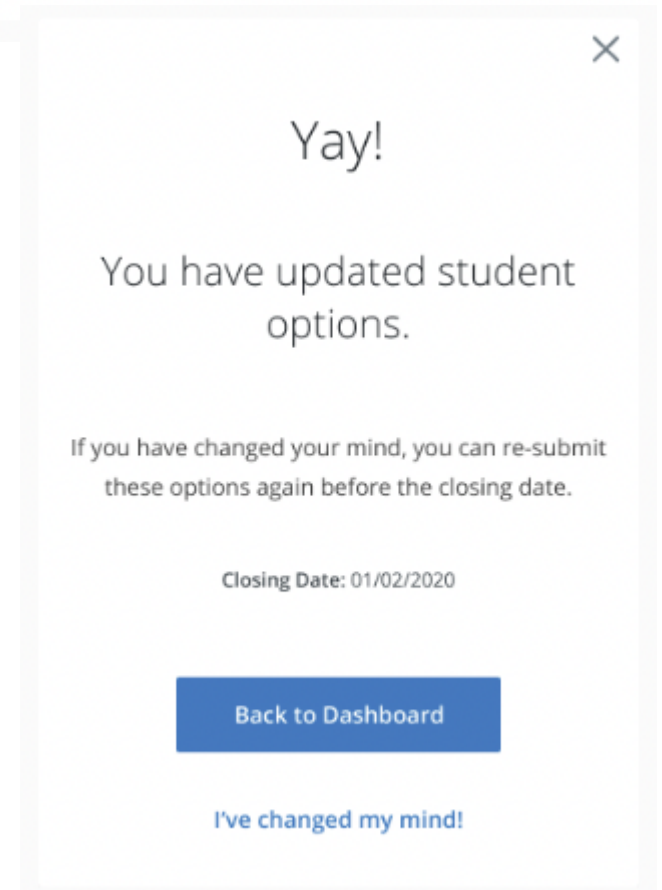
Leaving School *NEW*

aims to be a caring community
dedicated to the development of the whole person
in an atmosphere of mutual respect!

Changing your choices

- If your child changes their mind directly after submitting options, they can amend their choice up until the closing date by clicking **I've changed my mind!**

You can come back at a later date, if you change your mind, and change any of your choices, as long as it is done before the final date!



Update on Senior Cycle Devices



1 to 1 Devices - Price Comparison



Wriggle
€667.00 with case
€627.00 without case

OLIVE
for Education

Olive Group
€684 with case
€644 without case



School IT provider
Not equipped to supply or manage the quantity of devices required.
Can't match prices

**Both
companies
provide**

Secure, education-focused device setup and configuration.

Ongoing device management, restrictions, and security updates.

Technical support for device issues, apps, and troubleshooting.

Preloaded educational apps and learning tools.

Accidental damage warranty, repairs, and logistics support.

Assistance for schools.

Training and support for parents, teachers and students

Device Programme Options: Comparison

	BYOD (Unmanaged)	School-Funded	Managed Bundle
Consistency in the classroom	Mixed devices, different specs, different OS. Teachers manage multiple setups per lesson.	Consistent if the department provided funding to schools to cover procurement, which they don't.	Every student has the same device, same spec, same software, same workflow.
Safeguarding & content filtering	No school control. Students can access anything. School has no visibility.	Possible if the school procures and manages devices. Requires in-house capacity or outsourcing.	Mobile Device Management(MDM) applied at deployment. Web filtering, app control, and security policies enforced consistently.
Warranty & repair	Family's responsibility. Varies by device age, brand, retailer. No guaranteed turnaround.	School-managed. Repair budget needed annually. Would need to have a full time IT support in the school at a significant cost. Not supported by DE	3 or 5-year warranty including accidental damage cover. Known repair route and turnaround. Loan device available.
Teacher workload	High. Troubleshooting different devices, OS issues, and software gaps during lessons.	Moderate. Standardised if procurement is consistent. Still needs in-house tech support.	Low. One device, one setup. Issues handled through a dedicated support route.
Equity of access	Unequal. Device quality depends on what each family can afford or already owns.	Equal only if funded. Cost on average per year group is over €85,000 not funded by DE	Equal. Same device for every student in the year group.

Device Programme Options: Comparison

	BYOD (Unmanaged)	School-Funded	Managed Bundle
Readiness for AAC / project deadlines	No guarantee a student's personal device will be functional when needed.	Reliable if devices are maintained. Depends on replacement cycle and repair speed.	Reliable. Device is maintained, under warranty, and supported for the full cycle.
Setup & enrolment effort	Huge. Every device different. School must wipe, enrol, and configure individually. Multiple OS = multiple MDM tools.	Moderate. Batch setup possible if all devices are identical. Would need to pay for additional IT support	Handled by company before deployment. Devices arrive classroom-ready.
Cost to family	Family chooses cost of device and will need warranty and insurance to cover accidental damage.	DE funding does not allow for 1 to 1 devices. Limited number of shared devices only.	Family bears full cost. Bulk pricing applied. Payment plan options available.
Long-term sustainability	Devices age out unevenly. Programme quality degrades over time.	No guarantee of future funding amounts.	Repeatable model. Same process, same support, same standard each year.
Student experience after school	Student keeps their own device	Ownership unclear. Often devices must be returned.	Family owns the device. Management removed at end of programme. Device is fully theirs.

Company Options....



- We have considered and received presentations from both companies last year
- Wriggle are the most established company in Ireland.
 - Cheaper than other options.
 - School has used the company for years.

Subject Options

- 15 subject your son/daughter will choose from for their Senior Cycle option subjects
- 11 currently have an AAC or existing project, journal or digital portfolio worth 20-50% depending on the subject
- The others along with the core subjects will be added in the coming years
- ICDL(in Computer classes) in TY is preparing students with the skills needed

Subject	AAC/Digital portfolio/Other digital Project or practical
Accounting	Not yet
Agricultural Science	Yes
Art	No**
Biology	Yes
Business	Yes
Chemistry	Yes
Construction Technology	Yes
DCG	Yes
French	Not yet
Geography	Yes
German	Not yet
History	Yes
Home Economics	Yes
Music	Yes (Music technology option)
Physics	Yes

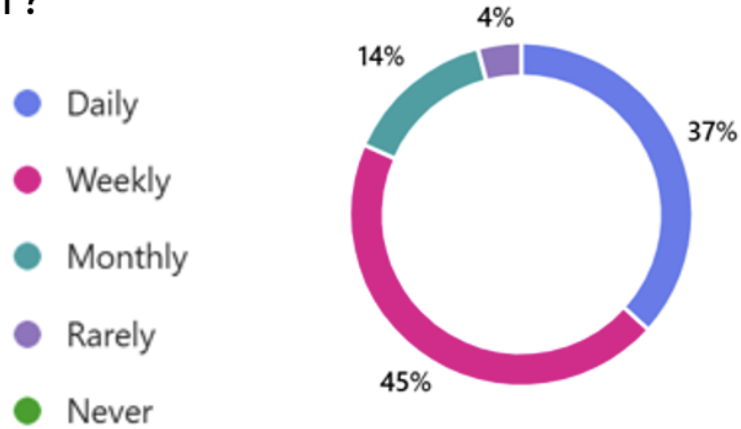
**but digital access needed to do research for project

Schools current digital learning provision

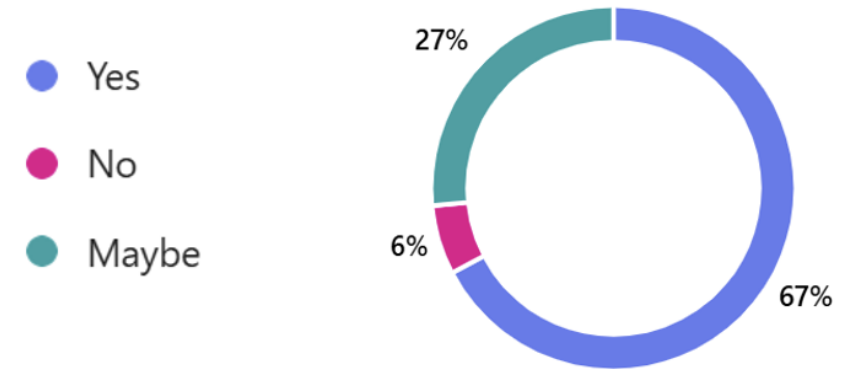
- All staff and students have Microsoft 365 accounts which allow them to access our learning platform Schoolwise which has been used by the school since 2013. They also have full access to all Microsoft apps.
- Teams is being used for communication in extracurricular activities and increasingly in class, with plans to move from Schoolwise to Teams in the new school year.
- Digital learning module in Learning to Learn in 1st year to equip students with digital skills.
- Staff regularly complete CPD and share their expertise through peer collaboration.
- The individual needs of our AEN students are being met in terms of assistive technology
- Digital citizenship modules in SPHE and CSPE
- Talks on safety online annually for all years
- The school has invested hugely in digital technology over the past 10 years from DOE funding and additional school funding on trolleys of devices, replacement of old devices, replacing classroom PCs with laptops etc.
- Studyclix-online study skills and support
- Investment in ICDL (International Computer drivers licence) which is an internationally recognised computer qualification to equip TY students with the skills needed for Senior cycle and beyond

TY Student Survey Results:

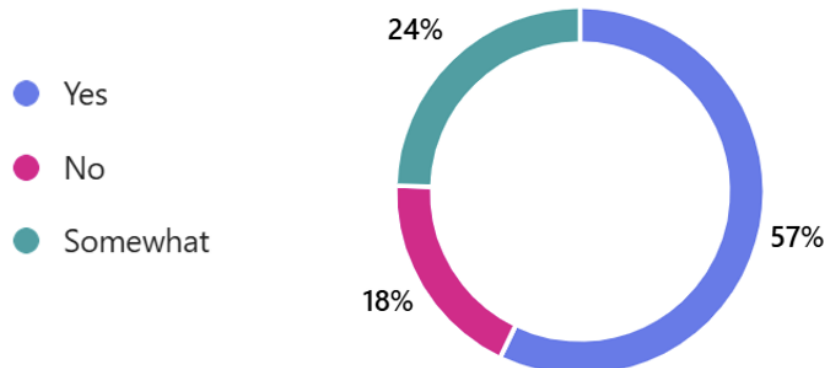
How often did you need a digital device for classwork or project work from 2nd to Transition year?



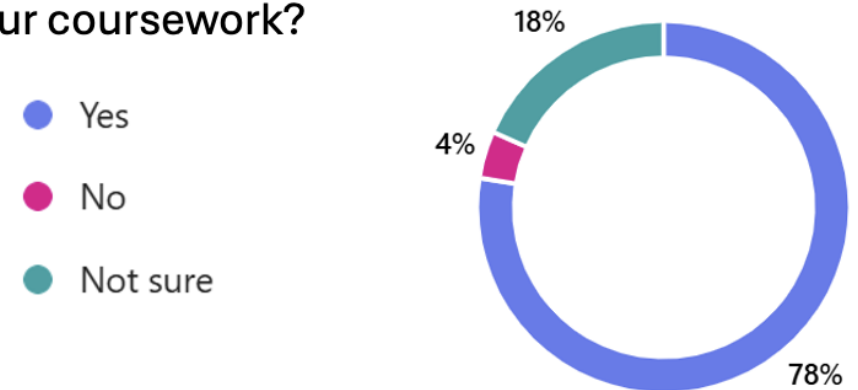
Do you think that limited access to shared devices in trolleys could affect your ability to complete your coursework in 5th year?



Are you aware of the digital requirements for the new Senior Cycle course?



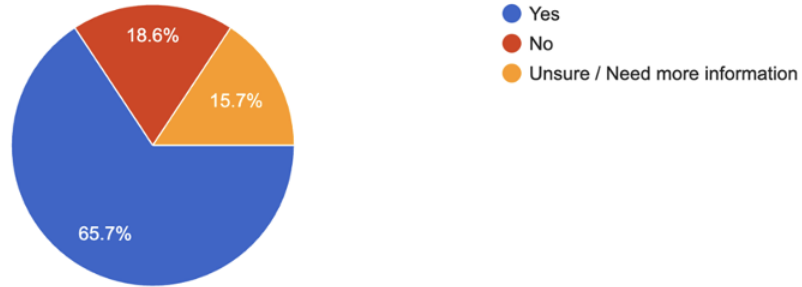
Do you think that having your own device from the start of 5th year would make it easier to do your coursework?



TY Parents Survey Results:

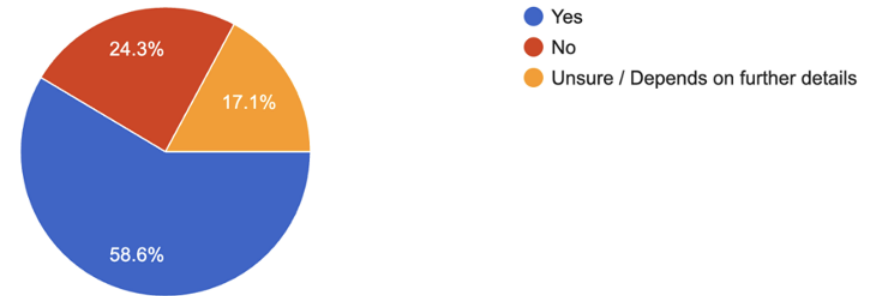
Do you feel that students having their own individual device for school work would be beneficial for their learning and AAC preparation in Fifth Year?

70 responses



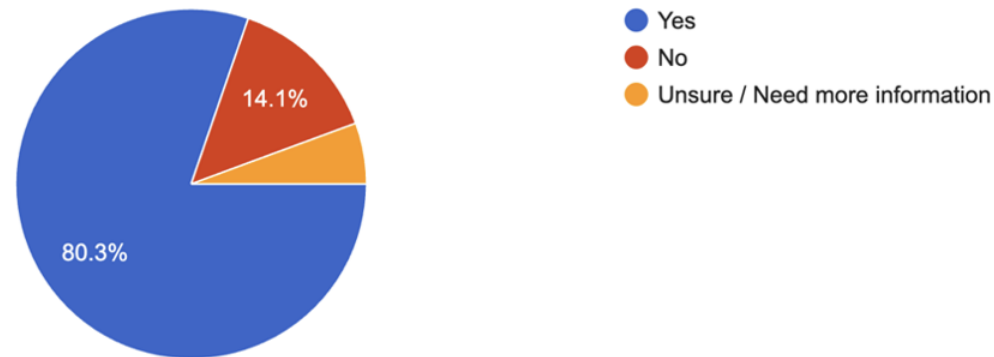
In principle, would you support the school introducing a 1:1 device programme for students entering Fifth Year?

70 responses



Do you think a 1:1 device would help address the current limitations of shared computer trolleys in the school?

71 responses



Next steps....

Survey of TY parents to decide whether to bring this forward to BOM for approval

Threshold of 70% with minimum sample size of 80 parents required

Next step dependant on result of survey

