

Presentation De La Salle College
Bagenalstown.

First Year Junior Cycle Subject Information Booklet



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Introduction

The transition from primary to post-primary education marks another milestone in your child's development. As you help your child through this transition, it is natural to feel a degree of anxiety and concern about the challenges before them.

As your child moves from primary to secondary school, he/she faces into a period of great change and transition. Your child is moving from a place where he/she is the tallest, oldest, and most senior student to a place where he/she is the smallest, youngest and most junior. He/she has moved from a building with one very familiar classroom to a new building with dozens of different classrooms and where he/she will have to move from a Maths room to a computer lab, and from a science room to a P.E. Hall. Throughout the last year of primary school, he/she has had one main teacher who was very familiar with each child and with whose personality your child became familiar and accustomed. Your child will now have to deal with possibly 6 different teachers each day.

Indeed, where your son/daughter has a particular subject for two 1-hour periods each week, it will take until November for the teacher-student contact time to equal one week in primary school.

Moreover, in primary school the teacher only had to be familiar with about 30 students; in secondary school each teacher may have to be familiar with in excess of 200 students. Indeed, as the student-teacher relationship is a two-way process it will take time for each teacher to become familiar with the personality of each student and each student to become used to the different personalities of all his/her teachers.

In 6th class your child was surrounded by about 30 students he/she knew well and who, in turn, knew them well. He/she will now be faced with a situation where they are mixing with a much larger number of different students in their year group, some of whom he/she does not know and who also do not know them. As our relationships with those around us is one of the main factors that determine how comfortable we feel, it is these factors, in addition to organisational matters, that will determine

how long it will take for your child to find a sense of comfort, familiarity, and attachment in their new surroundings.

In primary school all your child's school equipment and books were easy to obtain and produce when needed. In secondary school he/she will have to get use to organising their locker, sorting books and copies for the early morning classes, mid-morning classes, and afternoon classes. He/she will have to get use to organising different books for different days and ensuring homework that is given for the next day is done and homework that is given, for example on Monday and not due until Thursday, is done on time. In addition, academically, your child will now encounter new subjects he/she has not encountered before and probably get used to not scoring well in all tests all the time.

We hope that both students and parents/guardians will find this booklet informative and worthwhile, and that we will address any concerns that you may have regarding the junior cycle curriculum.

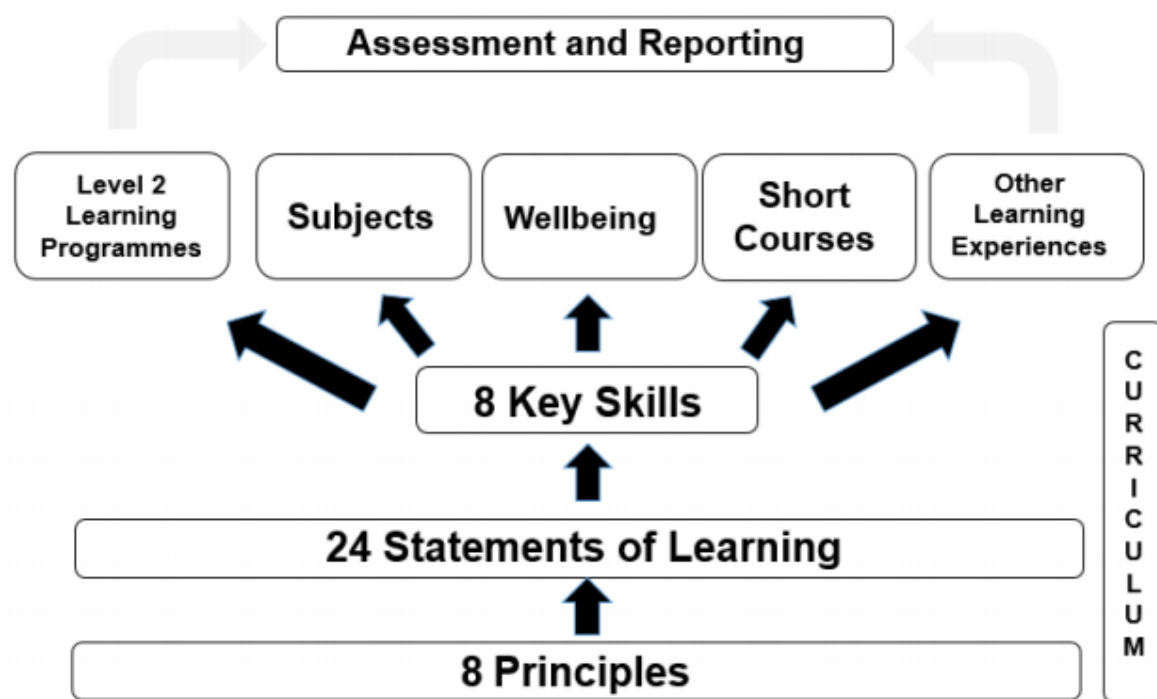
For more information about any of the subjects in this booklet, click on

www.curriculumonline.ie

Junior Cycle

- An engaging learning experience for your daughter/son – students become better learners and develop a love for learning
- Subject specifications at common level except for English, Maths & Irish
- Assessment procedures to support learning
- Wellbeing is a central theme
- Quality reporting back to parents and students
- An emphasis on Key Skills and preparation for life
- A sound preparation for learning at Senior Cycle and beyond

NCCA (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment)



8 Key Skills



Wellbeing – Key Points

- Student wellbeing is present when students realise their abilities, take care of their physical wellbeing, can cope with normal stresses in life and have a sense of purpose and belonging to a wider community.
- Includes PE, SPHE, CSPE and a school developed Learning to Learn programme.
- Includes a pastoral care culture and practices already established in the school.

Subjects

- English, Irish and Maths specifications at higher and ordinary levels
- All other subject specifications at a common level
- Final exam: Duration of 2 hours or less
- Assessment Task- completed in 3rd Year and worth 10% of SEC assessment
- Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs)
 - 2 CBAs per subject
 - Usually, one in 2nd Year and one in 3rd Year
 - Irish has both CBAs in 3rd Year

Classroom-Based Assessment (CBAs)

- A snapshot of your child's learning over a set timeframe, ranging from 3 weeks to 12 weeks depending on the subject
- Broad range of activities including presentations, written tasks, project work, experiments, practical activities, research and reflection on their learning.
- Demonstrate students' knowledge, understanding, skills and values
- Assessed by class teachers following a national standard of 'Features of Quality' established by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
- Recorded on Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA)
- Marked using Descriptors –
 - Exceptional
 - Above Expectations
 - In line with Expectations
 - Yet to Meet Expectations

Final Junior Cycle Examination Paper

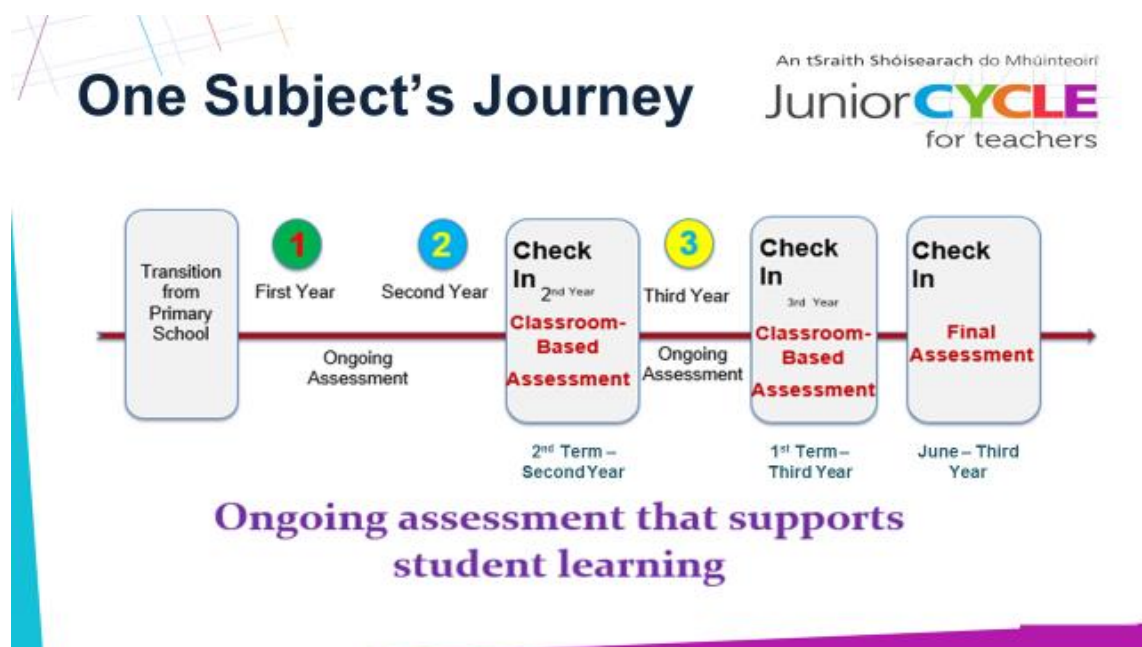
- Distinction 90-100%
- Higher Merit 75-89%
- Merit 55-74%
- Achieved 40-54%
- Partially Achieved 20-39%
- Not Graded <20%

Assessment Task

Worth 10% of final grade in a subject.

The Assessment Task will be completed in class under the supervision of the teacher and will be sent to the SEC for marking along with the script for that subject in the state-certified examination.

It may require the student to demonstrate an understanding of the knowledge, skills, understanding and values developed during the second Classroom-Based Assessment.



Subject Choices

The core subjects are compulsory for all students. Each student chooses three optional subjects before they commence first year.

Junior Cycle 2026

Core Subjects in PDLS	Option Subjects in PDLS
Mathematics	French
English	German
Irish	Wood Technology
Science	Business Studies
History	Visual Art
Geography	Music
Religious Education (RE)	Graphics
Wellbeing - Civil Social & Political Education (CSPE) - Learning to Learn - Physical Education (PE) - Social Personal & Health Education (SPHE)	Home Economics

Other Areas of Learning

Examples of suitable achievements for inclusion as an OAL

Students, in conjunction with their parent(s)/guardian(s) and the school choose 3 – 5 areas of learning that they wish to be recognised participating or engaging in.

- Specific awards your son/daughter has won for sporting or cultural achievements in first, second and third year.
- Membership of School Sporting Teams (e.g. Football, Camogie, Basketball, Athletics, Soccer, Equestrian, Tennis, Class Leagues)
- Member of other (non-sporting) extra-curricular activity. (e.g. Student Council, School Library Committee, School Choir, Debating Team, Quiz Team etc.)
- Taking part in the organisation of a charity fundraising event in the school (e.g. Shoe Box Appeal, Jumper Day, Cake Sale)
- Performing in front of classmates/schoolmates at a school musical, dramatic or dance performance (e.g. Talent Contest, Quizzes, Seachtain na Gaeilge)
- Taking part in organising or being involved in a school event (e.g. School Mass, Carol Service, Open Night, school information sessions, presentations to Board of Management).
- Participated in the school's Religious Education programme
- Participated in school's Wellbeing programme: PE, SPHE, CSPE
- School leadership role (e.g. Meitheal Group, Class Prefect or Other)
- Subject Programmes including Sports Day, Reflective Days, Educational Trips
- Assisted at parent-teacher meetings or similar.
- Initiatives undertaken in class such as a religion/history/science project, completing a winning design in art, making models in science,
- Being a part of any school club.
- An active role in your CSPE project

Level 2 Learning Programmes

There is a Junior Cycle pathway for students with special educational needs called Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs). L2LPs are designed to suit both special school and mainstream post-primary school settings. These programmes are designed for students in the low mild to high moderate category of GLD. The L2LPs will build upon prior learning and are designed primarily around five Priority Learning Units (PLUs) and two short courses that focus on the social, personal and pre-vocational skills that prepare students for further study, for work and life. The PLUs include: Communication and Literacy, Numeracy, Personal Care, living in the Community, Preparing for Work.

SAMPLE Level 2/3 JCPA

 JUNIOR CYCLE PROFILE OF ACHIEVEMENT		2019	
John Smith		DOB: 20 October 2002	
STATE CERTIFIED FINAL EXAMINATIONS Examination number: 73408		Classroom-Based Assessments - Subjects	
English (H)	Partially Achieved	ENGLISH	
Business Studies (H)	Achieved	Oral Communications	Above Expectations
Science (H)	Achieved	BUSINESS STUDIES	
Mathematics (H)	D	Business in Action	In Line with Expectations
History (H)	E	SCIENCE	
Geography (H)	C	Extended Experimental Investigation	Exceptional
Priority Learning Units			
Living in a Community	Achieved		
Numeracy	Achieved		
Preparing for Work	Achieved		
Other Areas of Learning			
Principal John Hancock 		Roll Number: 10000X Springfield Elementary School 19 Plympton Street, Springfield D11 X999 	
This JCPA recognises and records achievements in Junior Cycle.			

SAMPLE Level 3 JCPA



JUNIOR CYCLE PROFILE OF ACHIEVEMENT

2019

Oliver Cheasty

DOB: 06 July 2002

STATE CERTIFIED
FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Examination number: 61506

Business Studies (O)	Merit
Irish (O)	E
Mathematics (O)	D
History (O)	B
Geography (H)	D
Technical Graphics (O)	B
Metalwork (H)	D
Technology (H)	D
C.S.P.E. (C)	D

Classroom-Based Assessments - Subjects

ENGLISH

Oral Communications	Above Expectations
Collection of Texts	In Line with Expectations

BUSINESS STUDIES

Business in Action	In Line with Expectations
Presentation	Above Expectations

SCIENCE

Extended Experimental Investigation	In Line with Expectations
Science in Society Investigation	Above Expectations

Classroom-Based Assessments - Short Courses

Coding, Graphics, Robotics, Maths Sciences, etc	Above Expectations
Chinese Language and Culture	In Line with Expectations
SPHE (Social, Personal, Health Education)	Above Expectations

Other Areas of Learning



Principal

Tom Hardy

Year Head

Tom Hardy

Roll Number: 10018X

Hogwarts
Hill View, Blackwater,
Kilmeague, Co Cavan
D11 X999



This JCPA recognises and records achievements in Junior Cycle.

Third Language (French / German) & Matriculation Requirements

The Matriculation Requirement is the minimum academic qualification for entry that a College demands from an applicant.

N.U.I	English, Irish and a third language
Trinity College University of Limerick	English, Maths and another language
D.C.U.	Maths and English or Irish
Technological Universities	Maths and English or Irish
Colleges of Education	Maths and English <u>and</u> Irish (H4 at Higher level)
Others	Vary

Course Requirements/Subject Requirements

Beyond the matriculation requirements there are relatively few demands in terms of essential subjects for courses and jobs. However, particular courses may require grades, at certain levels, in particular subjects.

Some examples are:

- If you are considering going to any of the colleges of the National University of Ireland (UCD, UCC, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth RCSI) a **third language** should be among your chosen subjects.

Please note: In recent years this requirement has been dropped for Engineering and Science courses in NUI Maynooth and NUI Galway, for Engineering, Science and Agricultural Science courses in UCD and for Engineering, Science and Food Science courses in UCC.

- If you are considering Medical, Paramedical, Nursing, Science or Engineering courses you should select a **science subject** (or two for some courses) **e.g.**

Medicine – UCD: O6/H7 in any laboratory Science Subject

Medicine – Royal College of Surgeons: Higher Level Grade H4 in chemistry and H4 in physics or Biology (5yr course)

Pharmacy – TCD: Higher Level Grade H4 in Chemistry

Dentistry – UCC: Higher Level Grade H4 in Chemistry & physics or biology

Veterinary Medicine - UCD: Higher Level Grade H5 in Chemistry.

This is **not** an exhaustive list – please consult college website/prospectus.

Description of subjects

The following section contains a brief description of each of the **subjects** being offered by the College. It is provided purely to give a general overview of the subject and to link it to prior learning experiences from Primary School.

Business Studies

Business Studies develops students understanding of the everyday business of living. Students will gain an understanding of the world of work, running of businesses and completing accounts.

What will I learn about in Business Studies?



- How to budget your money
- How to be a 'good consumer' and knowing your rights
- Important services including banking and insurance
- Enterprise: setting up businesses including the world of work and different types of businesses
- Marketing: sales promotions, advertising and branding
- Economics: unemployment, inflation, government budget and international trade
- Organising and recording financial information for businesses, households
- Communication skills of letter and report writing

How will Business Studies be useful to me?

Business Studies helps you to make decisions about spending and saving your money. You will learn about the world of work and will introduce you to many possible careers such as Accountancy, Finance and Sales, Marketing, Economics, and Management.

French & German

In modern foreign language lessons such as in French or German, you will learn how to read and speak the language. Learning a modern foreign language is a really good way to exercise your memory and problem-solving skills as so many parts of your brain are involved in learning a language.

What will I learn in language lessons?



Some of the things you will learn include:

- How to speak about yourself, your family, friends, hobbies, sports, school...etc in that language
- How to listen and understand what other people speaking the language are saying
- The skills of listening, reading and writing in that language. The grammar and vocabulary of that language
- Some information about the countries where people speak the language and their way of life

How will a Modern Foreign Language be useful to me?

The biggest advantage in learning a modern foreign language is the flexibility and freedom it provides you with regards to employment and travel. Due to globalization of markets, employers are always looking for people with skills and the ability to speak a foreign language. Travel is much more enjoyable when you can communicate with the local people of the country you are visiting. There are many career opportunities in modern foreign languages such as; Tourism, Catering, Education, Business and Translation Services.

Geography

Geography is about the study of places, people and the environment. You will learn how the environment influences people and how people impact on it. You will develop your ability to draw and understand maps, graphs and diagrams, as well as studying photographs and collecting information through fieldwork.



What will I learn about in Geography?

Some of the things you will learn about include:

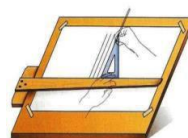
- Where people live (the human habitat) and why they live there (population and settlement patterns)
- The natural world and what influences and shape it
- The world of human activities and what influences and shapes it
- How to get and use information from different sources such as textbooks, maps, photographs, graphs, diagrams, newspapers, digital media and the internet

How will Geography be useful to me?

Everybody uses Geography in their daily lives, when you think of where to go on holidays or wonder what tomorrow weather will be like, you are thinking about Geography. When you look at an atlas map, a town plan or a weather map, you are applying your geographical skills. Studying Geography prepares you for careers in Town Planning, Outdoor Pursuits Education, Weather Forecasting, Tourism and Transport. Geography keeps you informed about topics which arise in conversation, current affairs, and media reports such as climate change, renewable energy and aid to poorer countries.

Graphics

Graphics is one of the technology subjects offered in junior cycle. It was previously referred to as Technical Graphics. In Graphics you will learn how to represent 3-D objects on paper and on computer. You will develop problem solving and creative thinking skills through the solution of graphical problems.



What will I learn about in Graphics?

- How to produce drawings using drawing equipment, freehand sketches and computers
- How to read and interpret drawings and diagrams
- How graphics relate to the design and manufacture of products

Is Graphics anything like what I did in primary school?

In primary school, you will have learned lots of things in mathematics which will help you in studying Graphics. For example, you will have learned about 2-D and 3-D shapes, lines and angles. In Visual Arts, you will have made drawings, experimented with lines, shapes, textures, patterns and tones. All of these previous learning experiences and skills will be helpful in Graphics. However, your Graphics teacher will start with the basic skills required and you will develop them throughout the coursework.

How will Graphics be useful to me?

Graphics helps you to think in a more logical and creative way. You will communicate information using diagrams and sketches. Graphics greatly compliments the other technology subjects and lead to careers in areas such as Architecture and Engineering.

History

History involves the study of people (ordinary and famous) who lived in the past. In History you will learn about sources of evidence on which we base our understanding of their lives. You will find out about important changes and events that over time have helped to shape the world that we live in today.

What will I learn about in History?

Some of the things you will learn about include:

- How people have lived during different periods
- How we find out about the past
- How important changes took place during different periods of time, what caused these changes and how people were affected by these changes
- A very broad understanding of local, Irish and international History.



How will Junior Cycle History be useful to me?

Junior Cycle History will help you to better understand the world in which you live. You will gain experience of working with evidence and learn to tell the difference between fact and opinion. History is a very practical subject because it involves learning about people, countries, societies and cultures. History can help you in many different careers, especially those linked with Heritage, Tourism, Research and the Environment.

Home Economics

Home Economics is relevant to everyone's present and future life. It teaches you important knowledge and skills which allows you to improve both you and your family's quality of life. You will learn in an active learning environment.

What will I learn about in Home Economics?

- What food should be eaten to have a healthy diet
- How to prepare and cook nutritious dishes suitable for different diets e.g. Diet for someone with Type 1 diabetes/Sports person's diet
- The systems in the body and how to care for them e.g. the circulatory system – The Heart.
- Analyse the relationships between people and society
- Study home design and interior design
- How to be a wise consumer, save money and examine marketing techniques
- How to be a more ethical and more involved in a sustainable world
- Use your creative skills to create textile and craft pieces



How will Home Economics will be useful to me:

Empowers you to make informed decisions when preparing food, looking after your diet and health, being able to manage money and resources. It develops your creative and analytical skills. Provides the foundation for study and working in areas of Nutritional Science, Health, Culinary and Hospitality Industry, Fashion and design, Teaching, Social work and Finance.

Irish

The aim of Junior Cycle Irish is to improve your ability to communicate through Irish. You will focus on improving your language skills through concentrating on four areas: your oral language through speaking, your aural language through listening to others and digital media, your written language through writing in Irish and your Literacy through reading passages, poems and stories written in Irish.

What will I learn in Irish?

Some of the things you will learn include:

- How to develop your skills of communication trí Ghaeilge
- How to use the Gaeilge that you already have and add to it
- How to develop your skills in listening, reading and speaking Gaeilge
- How to write letters, postcards, essays and stories in Irish

How useful will Gaeilge be to me?

There are many advantages in being bilingual. Gaeilge is one of our official languages as well as being an official language of the European Union. Learning Gaeilge also helps you in learning other new languages. Careers in which you may develop and use your Irish language skills include: Teaching, working as a Civil Servant, careers in Business, Law, Communication, Translation and the Media.



Mathematics

Mathematics will develop your problem-solving skills and your ability to present logical arguments. Mathematics lessons will better prepare you to be able to use what you learn in real situations of everyday life and work.

What will I learn in Maths?

Some of the things you will learn include:

- Sets
- Number systems
- Algebra
- Functions & graphs
- Trigonometry
- Geometry
- Statistics
- Applied arithmetic & measure



How will mathematics be useful to me?

Mathematics is a life skill! Studying mathematics prepares you for everyday tasks such as telling the time and handling money sensibly. It prepares you for business calculations. Mathematics prepares you for third level courses in areas such as Science, Technology and Engineering.

Music

Music is an important part of every-one's life. Can you just imagine a world without music? In Junior Cycle Music, you will sing and learn how to play a musical instrument. You will learn about many types of music such as pop, classical, rock, and traditional Irish music. You will also start composing some of your own music.

What will I learn about in Music?

Some of the things you will learn about include:

- * Many types of music
- * How to read and write music
- * How to sing songs and how to play an instrument
- * How to perform and develop your confidence as a performer

How will Music be useful to me?

Music is a very important part of everyone's life all around the world. Music has an important place in Irish heritage and culture. Most of us will take pleasure in listening to music and many will enjoy singing or playing an instrument throughout their lives. Some people decide to take up a career in music in areas such as Education, Business (Sound Engineer, Lyricist, Reviewer, and Therapist) and Performance (Composer, Performer, Conductor).



Religious Education

In Religious Education (RE), you will learn about what people believe, why they believe and how these beliefs influence their own lives, the lives of others and the world around us. You will explore how many religions, particularly Christian religions, and how they have shaped the Ireland that we live in today.

What will I learn about in Religious Education?

Some of the things you will learn about include:



- Many of the major world religions
- How different communities of faith organise themselves: their leaders, celebrations, forms of worship, and guidelines about their members' behaviour
- The different religious and non-religious ways of trying to understand the world
- How religious beliefs shape some ideas and laws.

How will Religious Education be useful to me?

Religious Education will be very helping you to understand how people make decisions, how people are inspired by their religious beliefs, how conflict happens and how it can be solved. RE will help you to solve problems and think for yourself when working with others. It will guide your planning regarding planning or living in other countries. There are many courses at third level that involve Religious Education and Theology.

Science

Science is the study of society and the world around us. Scientists ask a lot of questions and try to find out answers to their questions. Junior Cycle Science covers four areas of science: The Physical World, The Chemical World, The Biological World, Earth and Space alongside the Nature of Science. The Physical World is the study of materials and energy. The Chemical World is the study of what substances are made of and how they react with each other. The Biological World is the study of all living things especially plants and the human body. Earth and Space will allow students to develop a sense of the structure of the universe and the impact of human activity on planet Earth.

What will I learn in Science?

- Some of the things you will learn about in Science include:
- What plants and animals are made of?
- The environment and how to care for it
- The materials that make up the world around us
- How materials change and can be changed by chemical reactions
- Forces and energy
- How things work e.g. magnets, electricity...etc.
- The origin of the Universe

How useful will Science be to me?

Many of the skills you learn while studying Science such as problem solving, and investigation skills are very useful outside of school and will be of great value to you in whatever job you choose to do. Scientific knowledge is helpful in your daily life at home and in looking after yourself and your family. There are numerous third level courses in many different types of Science which lead to a huge variety of career opportunities, e.g. Dentist, Doctor, Pharmacist, Teacher, and Vet.

Visual Art

In Visual Art you will have the opportunity to create images and objects using a variety of tools, materials and special equipment. Visual Art is a really practical subject where students learn completely by doing. Students develop their creativity, imagination and self-expression.

What will I learn about in Visual Art?

In Visual Art, you will:

- * Investigate by looking and recording your observations
- * Learn a variety of new crafts
- * Learn to work in 3-D e.g. construction, sculpture or clay work
- * Learn about the design process and how it is used to create new design objects and images
- * Learn to make links between your artwork and that of other artists, craft workers, architects and designers from different countries and historical periods

How will Visual Art be useful to me?

There are many career opportunities in Visual Art in areas such as Photography, Illustration, Animation, Interior Design, Industrial Design, Fashion Design, Education and Architecture.



Wood Technology

Wood Technology is one of the technology subjects offered at Junior Cycle and is commonly referred to as 'Woodwork'. In Wood Technology you will learn to design small projects and develop the skills required to use tools and equipment safely to make your designs. You will work mainly with wood but also with other materials. You will also learn about wood as a material and how it is produced.

What will I learn about in Wood Technology?

In Wood Technology you will learn include:

- How to design a project when given a brief description of what you are to make
- How to use the internet for research purposes
- How to use freehand sketching to communicate your ideas
- How to prepare a design drawing/plan of a project you design
- How to read design drawings and make small projects from these drawings
- How to safely use a range of hand and power tools in producing your design.

How will Wood Technology be useful to me?

Studying Wood Technology for junior cycle can inspire a lifetime hobby and enjoyment of designing and building objects such as a piece of furniture or a child's toy. It can also inspire further study and lead to careers in areas such as Construction, Joinery, Architecture, Environmental Science and Design.



Wellbeing

(Includes PE, SPHE, CSPE and a school developed Learning to Learn programme.)



Physical Education

(core part of wellbeing)

Physical Education (PE) is a subject where you take part in and learn about physical activities. You learn about how important keeping fit is for the health of your body and mind. In some activities you work on your own and in others you work with your classmates as part of a team.

What will I learn about in PE?

Some of the things you will learn about in PE will include:

- How to take part in many activities including reading maps for orienteering to doing gymnastics with a partner in class
- How to be part of a team, to have fun and to try new activities
- Living a healthy lifestyle, good nutrition and the importance of physical activity.

How will PE be useful to me?

You may already have an interest in studying sport, physical education, leisure or recreation on third level when you leave post-primary school. By taking part on Physical Education, you will learn activities that you can enjoy outside of class and when you are older. Physical Education will hopefully inspire you to lead a healthy lifestyle, to try new things and to work well as part of a team.

Civic, Social & Political Education (core part of wellbeing)

Civic, Social and Political Education is commonly called CSPE. It aims to help students to become involved in their community, country and the wider world. It gives students an appreciation for national and international government structures and issues.

What will I learn about in CSPE?

In CSPE class you will get a chance to think about questions such as:

- What does it mean to be an active citizen?
- How can I get involved in my community?
- How can I make a difference?
- What are human rights?
- How can I play a part in protecting the environment?

However, CSPE is more than just theory as it involves taking action in the form of a group project.

How will CSPE be useful to me?

You will find CSPE useful if you want to study politics, sociology or many other courses. You will also find it useful in your everyday life and as a citizen as it helps you to understand your community, society and the wider world.

Social, Political & Health Education (core part of wellbeing)

Social, Political and Health Education is commonly shortened to SPHE. In Social, Political & Health Education you will learn about what might help you to make choices for a confident and healthy life. In SPHE class, you will learn how to get on with your classmates and how to help each other to be healthy, safe and well.

What will I learn about in SPHE?

Some of the things that you will learn about in SPHE include:

- How to settle into your new school and into your new class
- How to make friends with new people in your class
- Where to go and what to do if you need help or advice in your new school
- What it means to make healthy choices about such things as smoking, alcohol, healthy eating and being active
- How to form healthy, close relationships and to understand human sexuality

How will SPHE be useful to me?

SPHE will help you to personally develop into a confident, healthy, caring adult who tries to understand others better and can work as part of a group. This will help you no matter what course you study or area of work.



Notes