



SENIOR CYCLE REDEVELOPMENT

Enhancing learning. Developing skills. Preparing for life beyond school.

WHAT IS CHANGING?



- ✓ New and revised subject specifications.
- ✓ Written exams remain, but redeveloped subjects include AACs.
- ✓ Greater emphasis on key competencies.



WHAT ARE AACs?



AACs account for at least 40% of the available marks in redeveloped subjects.



Investigation



Research



Practical Work



Project



Performance

- ✓ Different tasks, depending on the subject.
- ✓ Externally assessed by the SEC.
- ✓ Teacher does not award the final SEC mark.



ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All work must be your own.
No plagiarism, inappropriate help or unacknowledged use of AI.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?



NCCA

Information on Senior Cycle Redevelopment



Curriculum Online

Subject Specifications & AAC Guidelines



State Examinations Commission (SEC)

Assessment, examinations & sample papers



Department of Education and Youth

National updates & implementation timelines



Subject-specific questions?
Speak to your subject teacher.

STUDENTS, TEACHERS, PARENTS & GUARDIANS – WORKING TOGETHER



STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- ✓ Attend and engage
- ✓ Understand AAC requirements
- ✓ Manage time and meet deadlines
- ✓ Complete work under supervision
- ✓ Reference sources correctly
- ✓ Ensure work is authentic and your own



TEACHER ROLE

- ✓ Teach and develop skills
- ✓ Explain AAC requirements
- ✓ Guide, give feedback and support
- ✓ Supervise and authenticate
- ✓ Support submission



Teachers guide and support.
Your work must be your own.



PARENTS & GUARDIANS CAN HELP BY:

- ✓ Encourage good attendance
- ✓ Support organisation and routines
- ✓ Promote academic honesty and responsible use of AI
- ✓ Support student wellbeing



Take an interest in progress and help students manage routines.
Assessment work must remain the student's own.

OUR COMMITMENT AT ST DECLAN'S COLLEGE



High-Quality Teaching & Learning



Fairness & Academic Integrity



Inclusion



Wellbeing



We will support our students, teachers and families as Senior Cycle evolves.

Our aim is to ensure every student develops the knowledge, skills, independence and confidence needed to succeed in Senior Cycle and beyond.

Senior Cycle Redevelopment

Preparing our students for Senior Cycle and beyond

Senior Cycle education in Ireland is changing. **Senior Cycle Redevelopment** aims to enhance students' learning experience and better prepare them for **further education, training, employment and life beyond school**.

It includes Transition Year, Leaving Certificate Established, Leaving Certificate Applied, LCVP and Senior Cycle Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes.

1. What is Changing?

New and revised subject specifications are being introduced gradually across the Leaving Certificate.

Written examinations remain an important part of assessment, but students in redeveloped subjects will also complete **Additional Assessment Components (AACs)** such as projects, investigations, practical work, research or performances.

There is also greater emphasis on key competencies including **communication, critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, working with others and managing learning**.

2. When Will the Changes Take Place?

New specifications are being introduced in five stages, known as **tranches**.

2025 | TRANCHE 1

Business · Biology · Chemistry · Physics · Arabic · Latin · Ancient Greek

2026 | TRANCHE 2

Construction Studies · Engineering · Geography · Physical Education · LCVP Link Modules

2027 | TRANCHE 3

Agricultural Science · Computer Science · DCG · History · Home Economics · Mathematics · Music · Physics & Chemistry

2028 | TRANCHE 4

Art · Economics · French · Gaeilge · German · Italian · Politics & Society · Spanish · Technology

2029 | TRANCHE 5

Applied Mathematics · Classical Studies · Japanese · Lithuanian · Mandarin Chinese · Polish · Portuguese · Religious Education · Russian

Please note: English and Accounting, originally scheduled for Tranche 2, have been postponed until at least 2027.

3. What Are Additional Assessment Components (AACs)?

Additional Assessment Components (AACs) are a key feature of the redeveloped Leaving Certificate. They allow students to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and competencies in ways that go beyond the traditional written examination.

AACs account for at least 40% of the available marks in redeveloped subjects.

The format varies depending on the subject and may include:

 **Investigation** ·  **Research** ·  **Practical Work** ·  **Project** ·  **Performance**

AACs are completed during Senior Cycle in accordance with specific **NCCA and SEC requirements**. They are **externally assessed by the State Examinations Commission (SEC)**; the student's class teacher does not award the final SEC mark.

Academic Integrity & Authenticity

As AACs form part of the Leaving Certificate assessment process, **authenticity and academic integrity are essential**. Work submitted must authentically represent the student's own learning and achievement.

Plagiarism, inappropriate assistance, or inappropriate or unacknowledged use of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** may compromise the authenticity of work and may constitute a breach of assessment requirements.

At **St Declan's College**, students will be supported through a **common school-wide referencing system**. Students will learn how to research effectively, evaluate and acknowledge sources, reference correctly and understand the difference between legitimate research and plagiarism.

Students who are unsure about what assistance, use of AI or source material is permitted should always speak to their subject teacher.

4. Student Responsibilities

Students are responsible for:

- **attending and engaging** with lessons consistently
- understanding their **AAC requirements**
- planning their work and **meeting deadlines**
- completing required work under appropriate supervision
- ensuring submitted work is **authentic and their own**.

Students should speak to their teacher as early as possible if they are unsure about any aspect of an AAC.

5. What Is the Teacher's Role?

Teachers **teach, guide, support and supervise** students throughout the AAC process.

They explain assessment requirements, develop the necessary skills, support planning and provide appropriate guidance and feedback in line with **NCCA and SEC guidelines**. Some class time will be provided but students will be required to work independently at home in the completion of these.

Teachers support the learning process; submitted work must ultimately represent the student's own learning and achievement.

6. How Can Parents and Guardians Help?

Parents and guardians can support students by encouraging:

✓ **Good Attendance** · ✓ **Organisation & Time Management** · ✓ **Regular Study** · ✓ **Awareness of Deadlines** · ✓ **Academic Honesty** · ✓ **Responsible Use of AI** · ✓ **Student Wellbeing**

Taking an interest in progress and helping students manage their workload is encouraged, while assessment work itself must remain **the student's own**.

7. Where Can I Find More Information?

For the most up-to-date information:

NCCA

Senior Cycle Redevelopment

Curriculum Online

Subject Specifications & AAC Guidelines

State Examinations Commission (SEC)

Assessment, Examinations & Sample Papers

Department of Education and Youth

National Updates & Implementation Timelines

Subject-specific questions? Students should speak to their **subject teacher** in the first instance.

8. Our Commitment at St Declan's College

At **St Declan's College**, we are committed to implementing Senior Cycle Redevelopment in a way that promotes:

 **High-Quality Teaching & Learning** •  **Fairness & Academic Integrity** •  **Inclusion** •  **Wellbeing**

We will support **students, teachers and families** as the changes are introduced and provide clear information as Senior Cycle continues to evolve.

Our aim is to ensure every student develops the knowledge, skills, independence and confidence needed to succeed in Senior Cycle and beyond.