



Senior Cycle Options

2025

St Farnan's Post Primary

Today all students had subject choice presentations from their teachers

Biology- Brand New Course for 25-26

Structure and Processes of Life

- · Nature of Science
- Organisation of Life
- Interactions of Life

Exam worth 60% AAC worth 40%

- A good ability in language lots of key words, definitions and note taking
- An interest in the subject is highly

- Content similar to JC Biology but studied in much more depth. Larger focus on plants in senior cycle.
- New AAC (Additional Assessmnet Component) worth 40%. Brief provided by SEC in 5th year for completion in a set
- Studied at Higher and Ordinary levels -No sample paper yet- Issued in

So many third level courses and career options: Science and Research, Doctor, Nurse, Pharmacologist, Farmer, Tree Surgeon, Ecologist, Athlete, Nutritionist, Personal Trainer, Engineering, Paramedic







Tonight we will cover...

- Transition Year Ms. Tanya Flanagan TY coordinator & Owen Dockery YH
- **Leaving Cert Applied** 2. Programme – Mr. Michael Wilkinson & Ms. Jo Bradshaw
- 3. Leaving Cert (including LCVP option) – Ms. Anita Cleary & Ms. Stephanie Hayes
 - How to complete and return subject options via Vsware



Transition Year

TY Coordinator: Ms Tanya Flanagan

Email: Tflanagan@stfarnans.ie







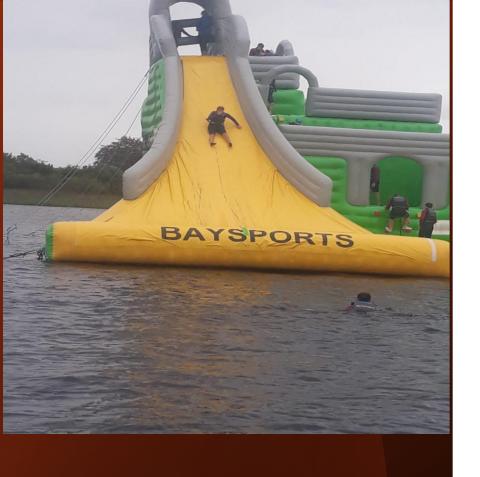
Transition Year is an optional year which can be taken following the JC, before a student begins their LC.

Transition Year It is not like a normal school year because students follow a completely different curriculum and have a more varied course with new modules, trips and projects.



Why opt for Transition Year?

- Challenges facing our Young People.
- Changing attitudes to Education
- Need for skills based learning
- Age profile of Irish students leaving school
- Time to mature



Students' reasons for choosing TY

- Year to mature
- Assess Junior Cert results/ prepare for Senior Cycle
- Explore new subjects/experiences/skills
- Gain a more positive attitude towards school
- To gain confidence
- Age



Applying for Transition Year

- Students fill in an application form.
- The co ordination team interview the students.
- The school use the information gathered to assess if we feel TY would benefit the student.

Subjects studied in Transition Year

English	Future Leaders
Irish	Mini-Company
Maths	Home Economics
Music	Photography
Science	Art
Heritage Studies	DCG
European Studies	Metalwork
IT	Woodwork
PE	Work Experience

Assessment of Subjects studied in Transition Year

- System of credits
- Build credits towards their final award
 - Pass, Merit or Distinction
- Credits also for attendance, application, their TY folder, uniform etc.
- Additional credits can be awarded



Additional Courses/Programmes



- First Aid
- Manual Handling
- Work Experience Etiquette
- Suite of online courses
- Team Bonding
- European Parliament Ambassador Schools Programme
- Work Experience
- Christmas Baking
- Forensics Workshop
- STEM Programme



- Film Making
- GAA/FAI course
- Road Safety Awareness
- Driving Experience
- Segways
- Substance Abuse Awareness
- Glasnevin Cemetery Tour Guiding
- Maths Challenges Castlecomer Discovery Park

Subject-related Outings





- Baysports, Athlone
- National Ploughing Championships
- National Museum, Dail
- Mount Lucas
- Geography Trip to Kippure
- European Commission Offices
- National Gallery
- Riverbank Theatre
- Spanish Restaurant
- End of Year overnight trip...

In school opportunities





- Gaisce Breakfast Club, Football for All
- Seachtain na Gaeilge
- European Day of Languages
- Maths Week
- Science Week
- Community Clean up
- Guest speakers
- Mini Companies
- EU Model Debate in Dublin City Hall
- TY Page of School Website
- School Musical

Work Experience

- Students have work experience one day a week - Wednesday.
- Students are given the opportunity to explore various career choices which interest them.
- Employers give written feedback to students and to the school.
- TY coordinator maintains regular contact with placement providers.
- Students keep a weekly diary which includes reflection on their work experience

- Students have one week of Community work experience in May in a community setting
- Theme of the week is "Giving Back"
- Students are encouraged to try to find a placement of particular interest to them
- We hope it will be a very positive end to their year before they graduate



Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

Mr. Wilkinson & Ms. Bradshaw

mwilkinson@stfarnans.ie

jbradshaw@stfarnans.ie







Alternative to established/ traditional LC



Leaving Certificate Applied

LCA is a two year Leaving Cert program available to students who wish to follow a practical programme and aims to prepare each student for adult and working life



Who would benefit most?



Students who are not adequately catered for by other LC programmes.

Learners who choose not to opt for those programmes





Traditional LC is very academic



Leaving Cert Applied provides an alternative two-year programme of study



LCA focuses on a wider range of skills and abilities than purely academic success



Complete key assignments and tasks

1 day per week work experience



- Students who would take all ordinary level subjects at Leaving Cert.
- Students who find difficulty with learning by rote rather than learning by doing.
- Students who have difficulty with essay type answers.
- Students who work better in small classes
- Students who enjoy project work.



The programme, which is of two years' duration, has three main elements

- Vocational Preparation
- Vocational Education
- General Education

A range of courses is provided within each of these elements.



Vocational Preparation

- Vocational Preparation and Guidance
- English and Communications

Vocational Education

- Mathematical Applications & IT
- Vocational Specialisms (e.g. Engineering, Hotel, Catering and Tourism)

General Education

- Arts Education
- Languages Spanish
- Leisure and Recreation
- Social Education

Elective Modules
Work Experience
Total of 42 Modules





The Course is broken into 4 sessions



Year 1

- Session 1: Sep Jan
- Session 2: Feb May



Year 2

- Session 3: Sep Jan
- Session 4: Feb May



End Year 1: 1 Exam in June

End Year 2 : June - Final Exams



Assessment

3 Modes

Satisfactory completion of Modules 62 credits (31%)

7 Student tasks 70 credits (35%)

Final examinations 68 credits (34%)

Total 200 credits (100%)

Certificate awarded at three levels:

Pass 60-69 % (120 - 139 credits)

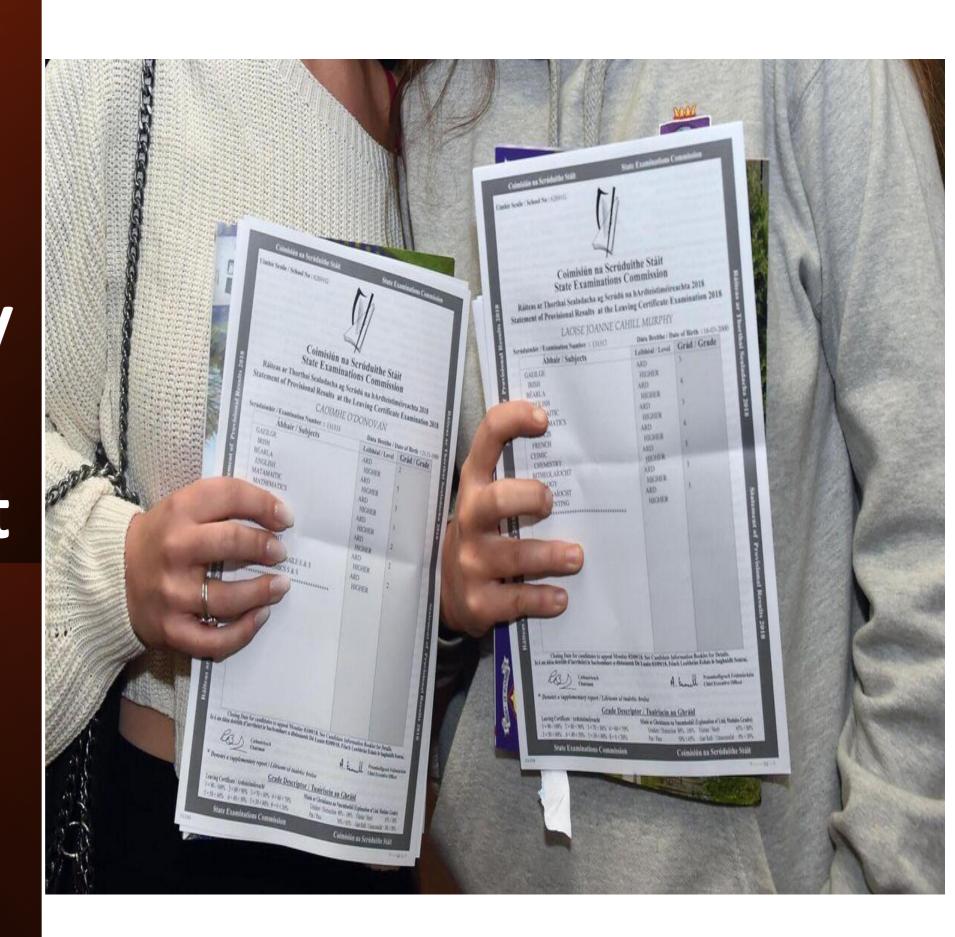
Merit (70-84 %) (140 - 169 credits)

Distinction (85-100 %) (170 - 200 credits)



Opening up New Options The Leaving Certificate Applied Route Map **Further** Leaving Education Certificate Further & Applied Post Leaving Higher (QQI Level 4) Certificate Course Education (QQI Level 7 - 10) (QQI Level 5 & 6) **Vocational Preparation** Careers **Vocational Education** General Education SOLAS **Apprenticeships** (QQI Level 6)

Established/ Traditional Leaving Cert



Most students study 7 subjects for Leaving Certificate

Guidelines for Traditional Leaving Cert/Leaving Cert Established

Core Subjects: English, Maths, Irish

(Unless exempt)

4 more subjects for you to select

Many students will carry on a third language from Junior Cycle (Spanish, French, Italian or a non curricular language)

Every effort is made to ensure that students get their choice of options for Leaving Certificate classes (but not always possible)

Science Subject/s are required for most science degrees and medical/ health courses.

Essential Subjects

Most Honours Engineering Degrees require Honours Mathematics.

An H4 (or higher) in Honours Irish is required for Primary Teaching.

Some courses require a third language.

Chemistry required for a lot of Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine, Dietetics courses

Some Courses that need a science subject

SCIENCE

Some ENGINEERING courses

MEDICINE (TCD/UCC (2) sciences, UCD/NUIG/RCSI (1) science

DENTISTRY

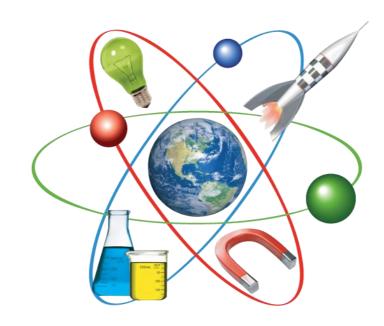
VETERINARY*

PHARMACY*

PHYSIOTHERAPY

RADIOGRAPHY

NURSING



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

SPEECH THERAPY

SPORTS SCIENCE

DIETETICS*

OPTOMETRY

* = Chemistry needed.

Optional Subjects:

Depending on demand expressed by students:

Languages:

- -Spanish
- -French
- -Italian*

Sciences:

- -Physics
- -Biology
- -Chemistry
- -Agricultural Science

Artistic and Creative:

- -Art
- -Music

Business:

Business

Applied Sciences/Technology:

- -Home Economics
- -Engineering
- -Construction Studies
- -Design and Commutation graphics
- -Physical Education
- -Applied Maths

Social studies:

- -Geography
- -History
- -Politics and Society

What happens if I do not take a language other than Irish and English?

 Many NUI colleges such as Maynooth University, UCD, University of Galway and UCC require a pass in a third language (e.g. Spanish) for entry into a large number of their courses

 Trinity accepts Irish as a second language requirement. UL and DCU and the Institutes of Technology/Technological Universities do not require a third language for entry purposes to most of their courses.



Non Curricular languages



Non Curricular languages For 2025 these examinations are offered in the following subjects:

Latvian, Romanian, Slovenian, Modern Greek, Finnish, Estonian, Slovakian, Swedish, Czech, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Danish, Dutch, Croatian, Maltese and Ukrainian.

There are also other curricular languages such as Polish that you can complete outside of school also

Consider the following when choosing subjects

What subjects do you enjoy?

Do you have an interest in the subject?

What subjects are you good at? (your ability in the subject)

Do you need a particular subject for a future college course or career?





- Do what comes naturally:
- 1. It is easier and more comfortable for you
- 2. Why make life more difficult?

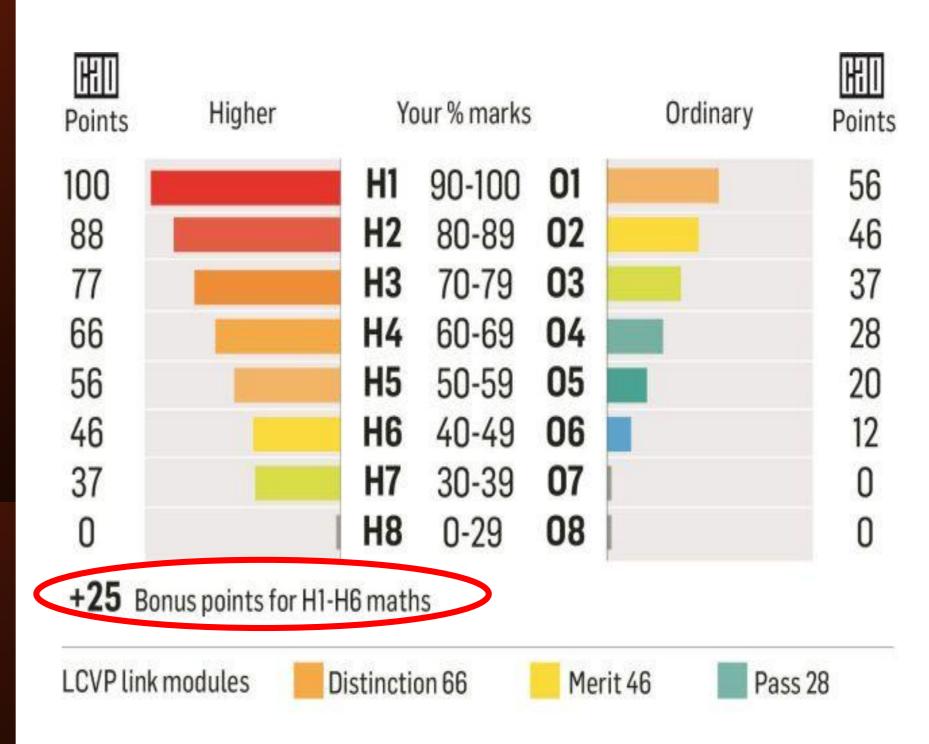




The Seven Deadly Sins Of Subject Choice



Leaving Cert subjects are split into Higher and Ordinary Level





Leaving Cert

- If you plan on going to 3rd level College/university
 (TDC/UCD/DCU/Maynooth/TUD etc) you need Leaving Cert CAO points
- Your TOP 6 subjects only are counted for Leaving Cert points for college
- Different course require different subjects e.g. English, Maths.
- Other courses need a Science subject
- Some courses require Irish or a foreign language

Many options after the Leaving Cert

Higher Education – Colleges such as Maynooth, TCD, DCU, SETU etc

PLC's (e.g Dunboyne College of Further Education) – don't require LC points

Apprenticeships

World of work

Gap year



Leaving Cert Vocational Programme

 LCVP is a programme that prepares students for the world of work.

LCVP is a extra
 programme/subject that
 students take along
 with taking other Leaving
 Cert subjects

Preparation for the World of Work





Exam

Portfolio 60% Written Exam 40%

Portfolio

Core Items:

Curriculum Vitae

Summary Report

Career Investigation Report

Plan

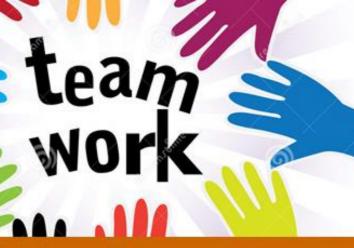
Optional (Any 2)

Diary

Formal Report

My Own Place

Recorded Interview



Written Exam

Section A:

Audio Visual

Section B:

Case Study

Section C:

General Questions

Kildangan Stud Induction Day





LCVP Link With Kildangan Stud

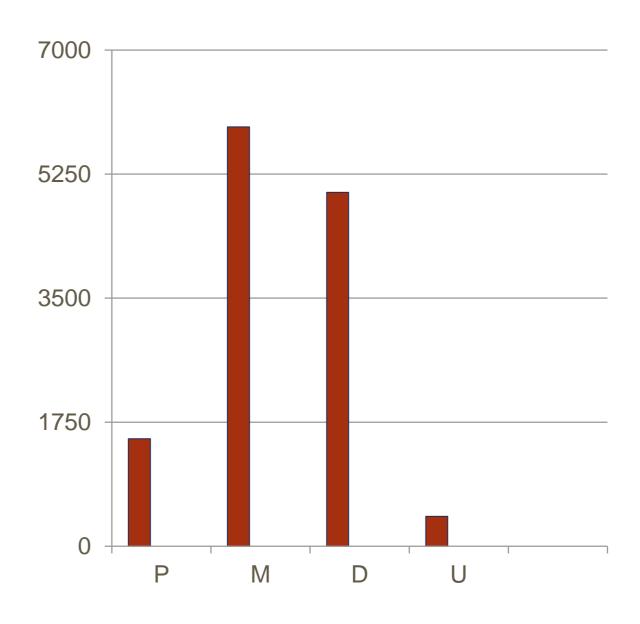


LCVP

LCVP Points

LCVP Grade	Revised LCVP Points
Distinction	66
Merit	46
Pass	28

LCVP national Results 2023



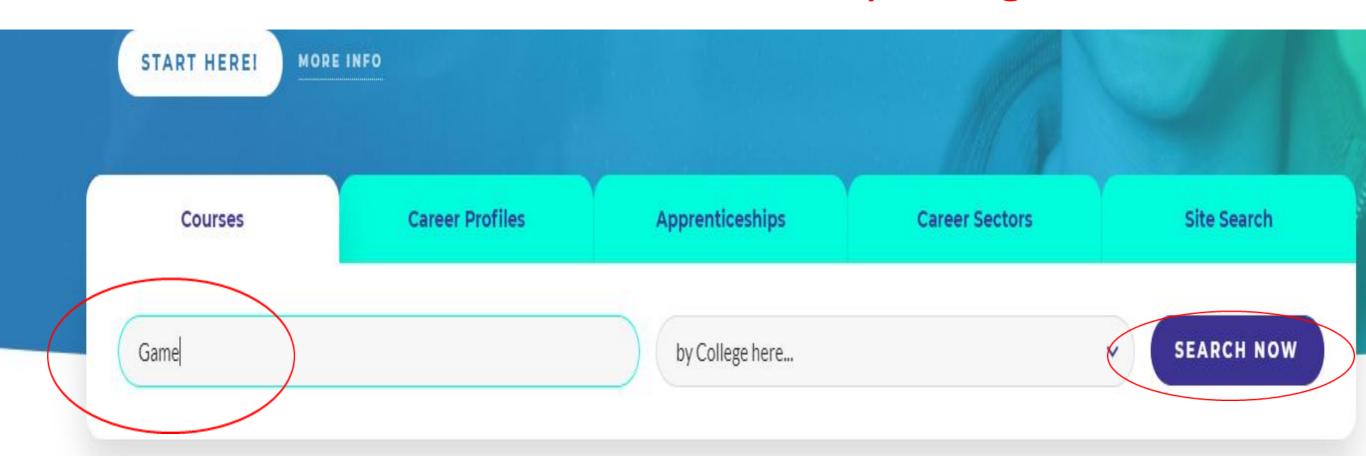
Using careersportal.ie to examine entry requirements for courses

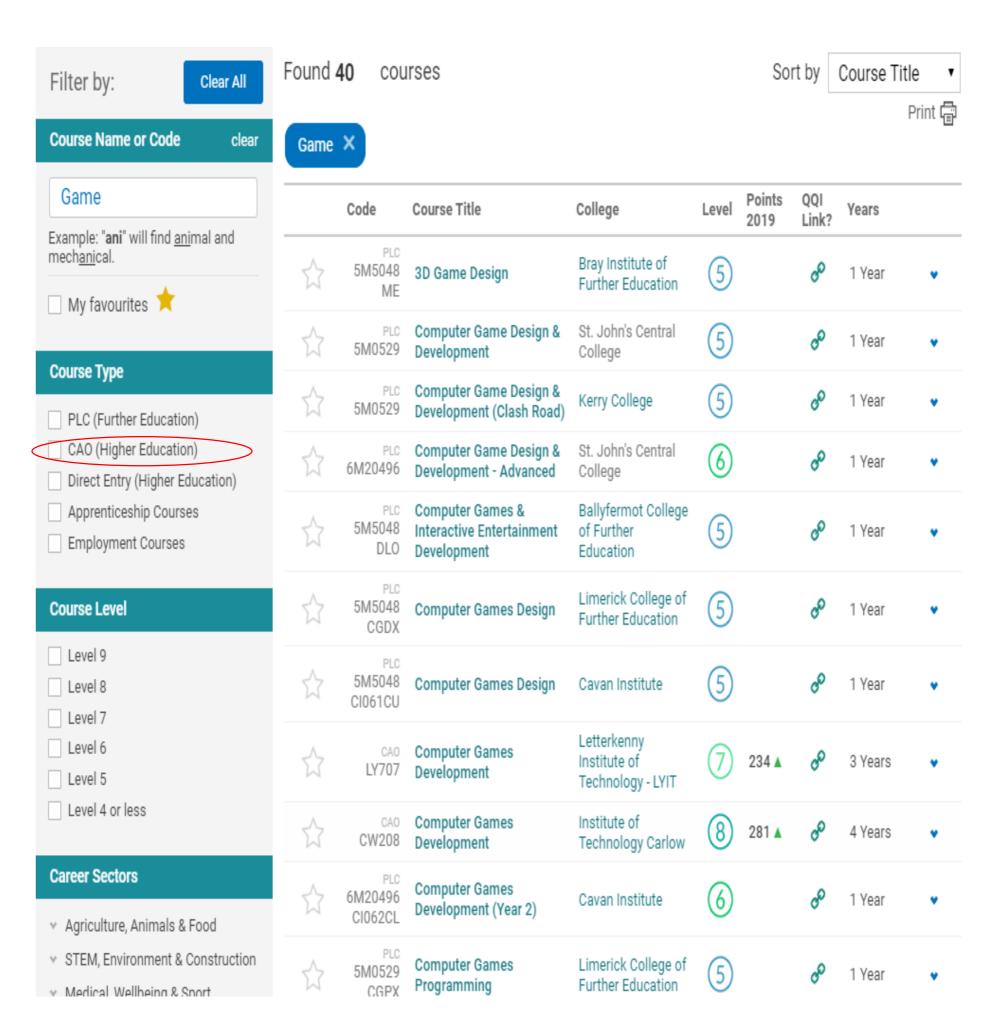
Log on to careersportal.ie



In the courses box search for a career you might like in the future e.g Game (Game design) & click search

Don't Filter by college





The search will find all courses that mention your key word.
You will see levels and points

	Course Type
Region	PLC (Furthe
☐ Dublin☐ Connacht	Direct Entry Apprentices Employmen
Leinster (excl Dublin)	Course Level 9
Leinster (excl Dublin) Munster Ulster	

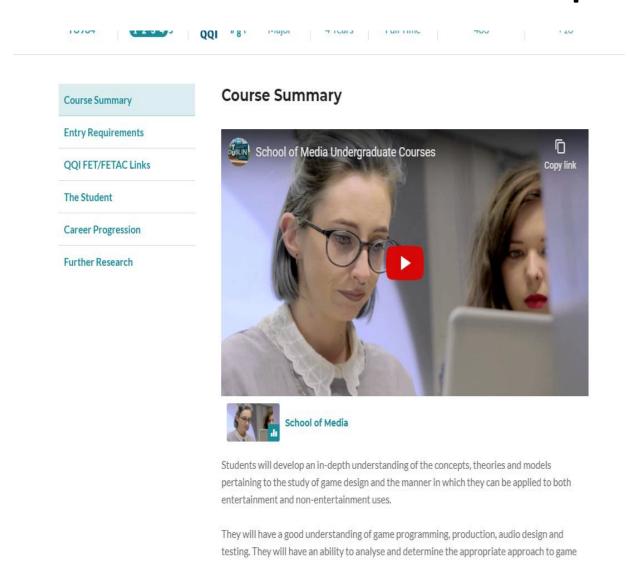
Course Type
PLC (Further Education)
CAO (Higher Education)
Direct Entry (Higher Education)
Apprenticeship Courses
Employment Courses
Course Level
Level 9
Level 8
Level 7
Level 6
Level 5
Level 4 or less

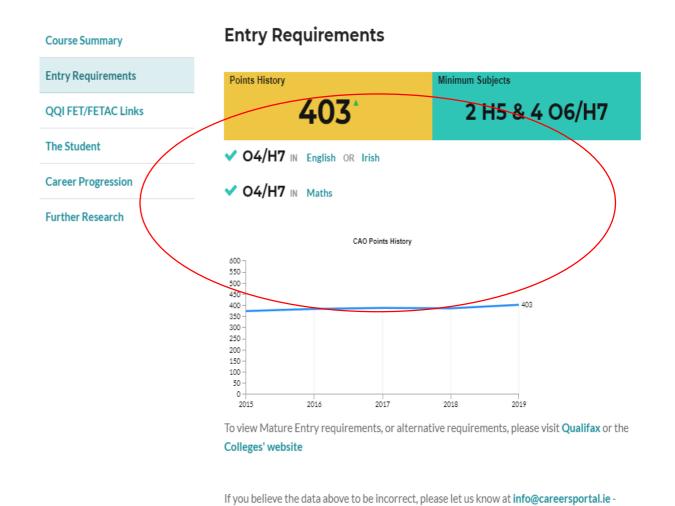
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	\Diamond	CM208	Computer Games Development	Institute of Technology Carlow	8	281 🛦	oo	4 Years	
PLC (Further Education) CAO (Higher Education)	\Diamond	CAO LC418	Computing - Games Design and Development (Thurles)	Limerick Institute of Technology - LIT	8	271 🛦	g [©]	4 Years	
Direct Entry (Higher Education) Apprenticeship Courses	\Diamond	CAO SG131	Computing - Games Development	Institute of Technology Sligo	7	168▼	o	3 Years	
Employment Courses	\Diamond	CAO DK820	Computing in Games Development	Dundalk Institute of Technology - DKIT	8	325 ▲	oo	4 Years	
ourse Level	\Diamond	CA0 TL711	Computing with Games Development	Institute of Technology Tralee	7	202 ▼	o	3 Years	
Level 9 Level 8	\Diamond	CAO TL811	Computing with Games Development	Institute of Technology Tralee	8	309▼	o ^o	4 Years	
Level 7 Level 6	\Diamond	CAO LC502	Game Art and Design	Limerick Institute of	8	838#▲	g _O	4 Years	
Level 5 Level 4 or less	\Diamond	CAO TU984	Game Design	TU Dublin - City Campus	8	403 ▲	o ^o	4 Years	
areer Sectors	\Diamond	CAO WD001 GAD	Game Development	Waterford Institute of Technology - WIT	8	279 ▼	o	4 Years	
Agriculture, Animals & Food	\Diamond	CAO GC460	Music Production For Games	Pulse College	6	#		1 Year	
STEM, Environment & Construction Medical, Wellbeing & Sport	\Diamond	CAO GC460	Music Production For Games	Griffith College Dublin	6	#		1 Year	
Creative Arts, Fashion & Media Government, Law & Education	\Diamond	CAO AL801	Software Design (Game Development or Cloud Computing)	Athlone Institute of Technology - AIT	8	304 ▲	o [©]	4 Years	

I will examine Game Design in TU Level 8

Click on the Course Title

This will bring up a course summary and entry requirements





thank you.

Subject Explorer

Practical Group

These subjects are 'hands-on' and involve working with tools and machinery on physical things like wood, metals and plastic. They may involve designing, planning and building things.

Construction Studies

Engineering

Technology

Science Group

These subjects demonstrate how to explore nature using carefully planned methods, and teach the basic methods and findings of scientific investigation.

Agricultural Science Applied Maths Biology

Chemistry Mathematics Physics

Physics and Chemistry Computer Science

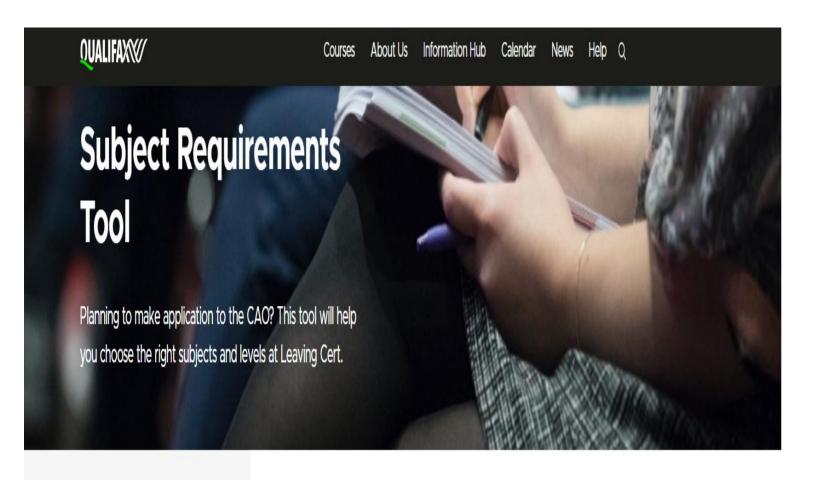
Careers portal – subject explorer

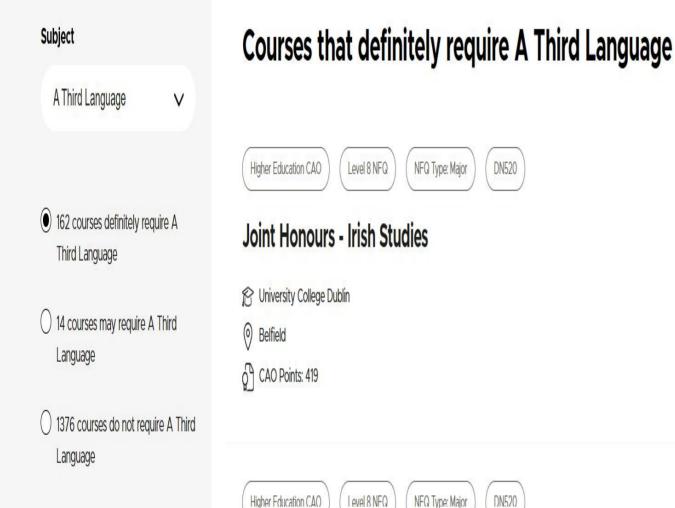
LINK:

https://careersportal.ie/s chool/subject explorer.p hp

Artistic & Creative Group

These subjects involve developing creativity and the appreciation of the work of others. This involves learning the methods and techniques of the subject and producing your own work using these skills.





 https://www.qualif ax.ie/subjectrequirements/1628 6/definite

More Information



Talk to your teachers/ ask questions



Use careersportal/qualifax to explore courses/subjects



Contact Ms. Cleary or Ms. Hayes - emails:

anitacleary@stfarnans.ie shayes@stfarnans.ie



Lunch time drop in clinic – Guidance office Lunch Wednesday, next Monday and Tuesday

SUBJECT CHOICE



Leaving Certificate
5th year OPTIONS
2025-2026







Senior Cycle Options Forms

1st Step

Google Form - expression of interest. Will be sent to school email on Wednesday 26th February.

To be completed by Friday 28th February.



Number TY, LCA and LCE in order of preference.

If LCE is your first choice, identify the option subjects you are you likely to pick.



2nd Step

TY or LCA application form and/or

LCE option selection form VSware

IMPORTANT Information

- Today there was a presentation to 3rd year & TY students from teachers of each subject area about their Leaving Certificate options subjects.
- This year, the 5th year Options MUST be filled in on-line in VSware. A text will be sent with a link next week.
- This Options procedure MUST BE COMPLETED by 4pm FRIDAY14th MARCH, 2025.
- All Students definitely going through to 5th year Established Leaving Cert MUST complete this.
- 2025-2026 LCA and TY candidates do not complete this.

Core Curriculum subjects

- Gaeilge
- English
- Maths

Options x 4 subjects incl. French / Spanish / Italian*

- Some students do not study Irish or MFL language

 a separate subject may be placed on during
 Irish time, Eg: Geography
- Career Guidance
- SPHE including RSE modules
- Study Skills/Physical Education/LCVP/Applied Maths
- Tutorial & Pastoral Care class

Options subjects

- Put ALL 12 subjects in order of your preference
- Accounting*; Agricultural Science, Art; Applied Maths*, Biology; Business; Chemistry; Construction Studies; Design and Communication Graphics (DCG); Engineering; French; Geography; History; Home Economics (S&S); Italian*; Music; Physics; Politics & Society; Physical Education Spanish; Technology*.
- You will receive 4 subjects from this list

Options – note 1



- While every effort will be made to give students their subjects preferences it may not always be possible.
- Certain subjects may not be available this coming year due to teacher allocation quotas or an extremely small number of students opting for a particular class.

Options – note 2

PLEASE mark the subject that you most

want as PREFERENCE 1

 The subjects that you want nearly as much as PREFERENCE 2 etc....

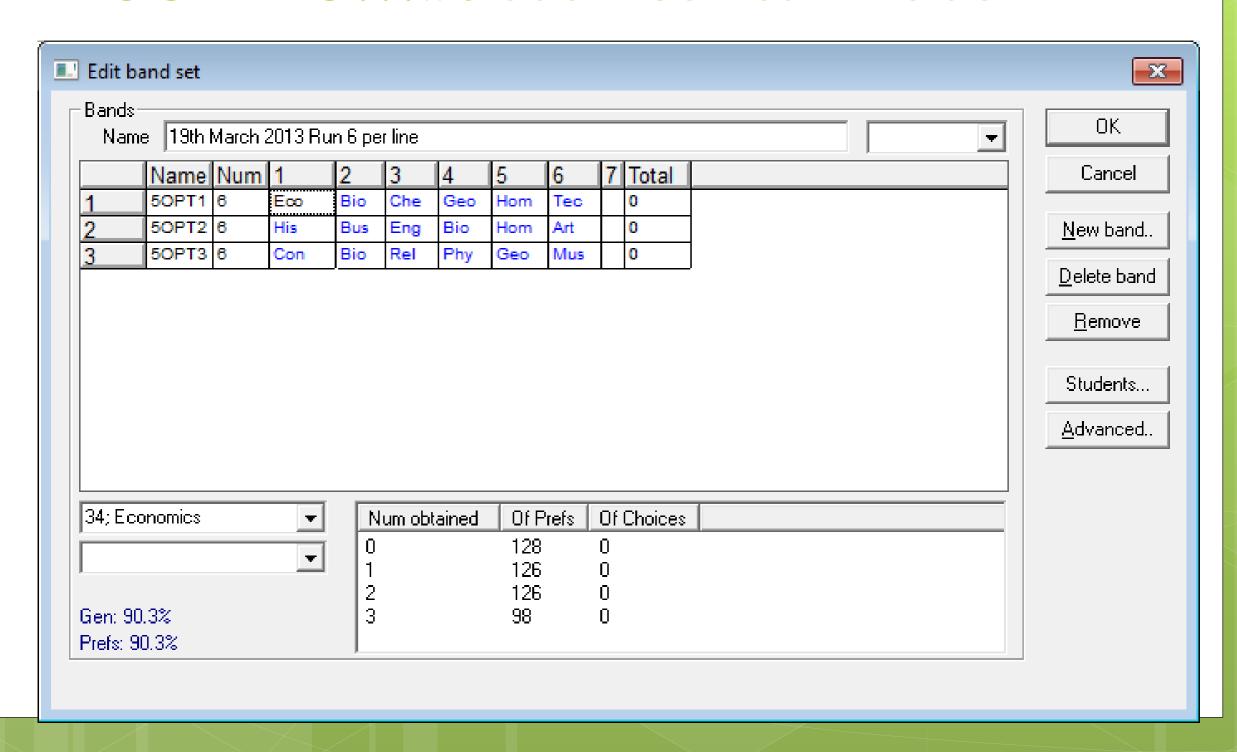
PREFERENCE	SUBJECT
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2	
2 3 4	
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9	
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11	
12	
13	
14	
15	

- Do not try and second guess the options system – the system of operation is produced by computer input/output and by some human tweaking!
- Unfortunately, this process does not give 100% satisfaction to all students across the 3 choice subjects...usually a 87% 94% satisfaction rating across the 1st 3 choices....
 - There are times that one subject area may not be on the 5th year timetable due to staff/allocation resource issues.
 - This has a greater impact on students who choose this as their 1st preference, but we will endeavour to make sure that those minority of students get their highest possible choices.

PLEASE CROSSCHECK all subject data inputted by STUDENTS/PARENTS on Vsware before final submitting of Options.

	Crs	Year	Class	Preferences	Choice	Num prefs	Num choices	Active	Filter: all data	Cano
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Rhys	02	1	В	1 25, 2 22, 3 5, 4 21, 5 562, 6 27, 7 98, 8 65, 9 33, 10 29	50PT1: 25, 27; 50PT2: 5, 21; 50PT3: 22, 98	10	6	Υ		
Andrew	02	1	D	1 21, 2 562, 3 5, 4 29, 5 25, 6 27, 7 33, 8 22, 9 65, 10 71	50PT1: 5, 27; 50PT2: 21, 29; 50PT3: 25, 33	10	6	Υ		
a	02	1	Α	1 25, 2 67, 3 4, 4 22, 5 5, 6 223, 7 33, 8 71, 9 29, 10 562	50PT1: 67, 223; 50PT2: 4, 5; 50PT3: 25, 22	10	6	Υ		
- Kate	02	1	C	1 25, 2 5, 3 67, 4 22, 5 223, 6 4, 7 34, 8 21, 9 65, 10 98	50PT1: 67, 223; 50PT2: 5, 4; 50PT3: 25, 22	10	6	Ý		
dam	02	1	В	1 21, 2 4, 3 22, 4 25, 5 34, 6 5, 7 223, 8 98, 9 29, 10 33	50PT1: 25, 34; 50PT2: 21, 4; 50PT3: 22, 98	10	6	Ý		
Leah	02	i	В	1 98, 2 25, 3 5, 4 22, 5 34, 6 33, 7 71, 8 67, 9 65, 10 29	50PT1: 5, 34: 50PT2: 98, 29: 50PT3: 25, 22	10	6	Ý		
ellie	02	i	Č	15, 225, 398, 4223, 522, 671, 74, 8562, 929, 1067	50PT1: 5, 223; 50PT2: 25, 4; 50PT3: 98, 22	10	6	Ý		
, Taidgh	02	1	В	1 25, 2 21, 3 33, 4 4, 5 5, 6 22, 7 34, 8 223, 9 27, 10 562	50PT1: 25, 5; 50PT2: 21, 4; 50PT3: 33, 22	10	6	Ý	-	

What the options lines may look like.... Student comes 1st version



Extra subjects

 Applied Maths – may run outside of school options classes. Please indicate on your form if you are interested in applying for this extra subject

<u>OR</u>

- L.C.V.P. (Leaving Cert Vocational Programme) a class may run outside of timetabled options classes. L.C. points for LCVP are different than normal subjects (Distinction, Merit & Pass grades)
 - Some students may also take extra subjects (example: Polish or other language/Music) outside of the school timetable – please check in August as there are restrictions on certain subjects with practical elements to it most projects/portfolios CANNOT be written up & completed at home/outside the classroom

What to do if NOT happy!

- When you receive your 5th year choices ...
- If you are unhappy with an option...please write a short note outlining the reasons to the Deputy Principal and we will look at these and see what we can do to help.
- Unfortunately we cannot guarantee that a change will be possible due to the reason outlined above.

Long process...

- This is a long process as teacher allocation & timetabling processes will have to be completed before we can hand out the final options classes.
- Hopefully, they will be ready by the middle of May before the Transition Year Graduation night & Junior Cycle exams.
- Thank you, Andrew Purcell