



# Ardee Community School

Senior Cycle Information Night

# Options

- 1. Transition Year
- 2. Traditional 5<sup>th</sup> Year Leaving Certificate with or without LCVP
- 3. Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)



# Transition Year



# What are the Benefits of TY?

- Development of lifelong skills – independent self-directed learning.
- Informed subject choice.
- Increased points at senior cycle.
- Students take responsibility for their own learning.
- Increased Maturity

# Curriculum

- English
- Irish\*
- Maths
- Language Studies - French / German
- Social education – non language students
- Business & Enterprise
- Computers
- Guidance
- PE
- Social, Personal and Health Education
- Portfolio class

# T.Y. Rotating Modules – 25.26

<b>Block 1 - 5 week rotation 2 classes</b>	<b>Block 2 - 5 week rotation 2 classes</b>
Applied Maths Accounting Agricultural Science Biology Chemistry Computer Science Design and Communication Graphics Physics	Car Maintenance Construction Studies Craft-Junk Kouture Home Economics Craft, Sewing Music Drama, Film and Theatre Studies Yoga
<b>Block 3 - 4 week rotation 2 classes</b>	<b>Block 4 - 4 week rotation 2 classes</b>
Geography History Horticulture Law Politics and Society Philosophy	Childcare Cultural and Heritage Studies Environmental and Social Science Media Studies Public Speaking RSE

# Extra Curricular Activities

- Student Enterprise
- Youth for Justice
- Team Building Activities
- SEPI cross border environmental programme
- Road Safety Initiative
- Study Skills
- Green Schools
- Peer Education
- Debating
- Musical
- Community Projects
- Junior St Vincent De Paul
- Law workshops
- Gaisce
- Social Awareness Talks
- First Aid
- GAA online course
- Other online courses

# Our Transition Year

- Cost approx. €300
- Team building trip - €250
- Accessable to all
- New experiences
- Undertake new skills & improve existing skills

# Other Opportunities

- Other trips, courses or opportunities which may arise and are suited to either the whole group or individuals.

Computer Science Module in DKIT.

Oireachtas visits

Work experience outside the two allocated weeks.

Science, law or other courses in RCSI, Trinity and DCU.

STEM projects (Some leading to qualifications)

Community work

Robotics



# Leaving Certificate and Subject Choice

# The Leaving Certificate: Beginning with the end in mind



# New Senior Cycle

- Changes to TY, time allocation for subjects and assessment
- All SC subjects will have new specifications over the next few years.
- For LC 2027 new subject Drama, Theatre and Film Studies.
- Changes to Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Business with 40% assessment prior to written exam.
- Further subjects to change for LC 2028: Construction, Engineering, Geography, LCPE, Accounting and LCVP.

Another set of subjects will change for LC 2029 etc

# Subject Choice Considerations

- Choose subjects which students like.
- What subjects they are good at – where are their strengths and abilities?
- Consider aspects of TY and Junior Cycle which they enjoyed
- Choose subjects which will allow students to continue with an area of interest after school
- Being aware of some essential subject requirements for specific courses and some useful subjects for career interests

# Seven subjects required

Students take 7 exam subjects

3 Core subjects plus 4 options

LCVP is an extra option (8<sup>th</sup> subject)

Applied Maths is also offered as an additional subject.

# Subjects Offered

Core	Lang	Science	Humanities	Technical	Creative/ Practical	Business
<u>English</u>	French	Biology	Geography	Engineering	Music	Business
<u>Irish*</u>	German	Chemistry	History	Construction	Art	Accounting
<u>Maths</u>	Other Languages (See slide below)	Physics	Politics & Society	DCG (Graphics for Junior Cycle)	Home Economics	
		Agricultural Science	Drama, Film and Theatre Studies	* <i>Applied Maths</i>  <i>LC Computer Science</i>	LC Physical Education  LCVP	

# Compulsory Subjects

- Social, Personal and Health Education (Including RSE)
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Guidance
- Tutorial

# Notes on Subjects

- Politics and Society (introduced 2019)
- Computer Science (introduced 2020)
- Physical Education (introduced 2020)
- Drama, Theatre and Film Studies (New from Sept 2025)

## **Junior Cycle => Senior Cycle subjects**

- Applied Technology => Technology (New SC subject from Sept 2022)
- Graphics => Design and Communication Graphics (DCG)
- Wood Technology => Construction
- Engineering (Metalwork) => Engineering
- Business Studies => Business and Accounting
- Visual Art => Art

# Options After Leaving Certificate

- Many options available to students
- University and College courses, Tertiary Degrees  
Apprenticeships, Post Leaving Certificate Courses etc.
- Necessary to begin exploring possible areas of career interest when considering subject choice.

# College Entry Requirements

You need to satisfy 3 criteria in order to secure place on a degree course (Third level)

- 1. Basic Entry Requirements**
- 2. Course Specific entry requirements**
- 3. The required number of points**

# Higher v Ordinary Level

- Big difference in points allocation, HL v OL
- High points may not be required for chosen course.
- 450+ points will be difficult to attain without studying at least 6 subjects at higher level.
- Bonus 25 points for higher level Maths under the current points system
- Be practical about student's own abilities and potential pressure to meet unrealistic expectations

# Grading and Points for LC

- Count six subjects

HL Maths 25 extra points for H6 and above

HL Grade	Points	OL Grade	Points	LCVP Grade	Points
H1 (90-100)	100				
H2 (80-89)	88				
H3 (70-79)	77				
H4 (60-69)	66			Distinction (80-100)	66
H5 (50-59)	56	O1 (90-100)	56		
H6 (40-49)	46	O2 (80-89)	46	Merit (65-79)	46
H7 (30-39)	37	O3 (70-79)	37		
H8 (20-29)	0	O4 (60-69)	28	Pass (less than 64)	28
		O5 (50-59)	20		
		O6 (40-49)	12		
		O7 (30-39)	0		
		O8 (20-29)	0		

# Subject Choices: Things to note

- Some courses require certain subjects and at a specific grade : Third Language/ Science Subject(s)/HL Maths/HL Irish
- Primary Teaching has specific requirements in Irish (H4), English H6 or ) and Maths
- Consider if a subject has practical elements. Is there a practical assessment as part of examination
- What are the learning requirements of the subject
- Does the subject come naturally
- Does your student currently enjoy it or have an interest
- Consider Junior Cycle results
- Consider their groupings of subjects

# Third Language Requirement

- UCC, UCD, University of Galway, Maynooth University and the Royal College of Surgeons require a pass in a third language for some of their courses
- Other courses **no longer require a third language** include Home Economics and Primary Teaching in the last few years )
- Science, Engineering, Computing in NUI s **DO NOT** require a 3rd language (some exceptions –always check)
- Business and Law do not require third language in MAYNOOTH but do in other NUIs
- Other colleges have it as a requirement for certain courses that have a language component as part of course
- Entry to the Cadetships in the Defence Forces require a third language.

# Third Language...

- Is not required for
  - Gardai (Irish is no longer required, a proficiency in either English or Irish or both)
  - Nursing
  - For most courses in Technological Universities
  - Apprenticeships
  - Any PLC college
  - Primary and Home Economics Teaching

# Other Languages

- Worth considering where English is not the spoken language in the home.
- A very good spoken (for some languages with oral and listening exams) and written competency required.
- Curricular languages include, **Spanish, Italian, Polish, Lithuanian, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, Russian and Portuguese**. These have a written, oral and listening parts.
- Non -Curricular languages include **Ukrainian, Czech, Bulgarian, Croatian, Danish, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, Hungarian, Latvian, Modern Greek, Romanian, Slovakian, Slovenian, Swedish** (Assessed by written exam in June only)
- **Ukrainian** as a non-curricular language for exams from 2025 on. (First exam was held in June 2025)

# Tips to help make choices

## Do

- Consider overall collective of subjects and the workload requirements
- Speak with subject teachers and Guidance Counsellors
- Ask older friends/family members about subjects
- Pick what you are GOOD at and ENJOY
- Be aware of potential college/subject requirements

## Don't

- Pick subjects because of friends
- Let potential teacher influence choices
- Choose a subject because it is perceived as easy.
- Choose a new subject without finding out more about it.
- Pick a grouping of subjects that will overstretch the student

# Beware..



- Of leaving out a subject that might be required (is a third language or science subject required?)
- Of taking on a new subject for the first time without finding out what it entails including skills
- Do the necessary research now and have a loose career plan
- If still unsure, a good plan is to include a language and one science subject in the four options

# Subject Requirements

- Most Leaving Certificate Subjects have Practical Coursework component.
- The remaining Sciences (Physics, Chemistry and Biology) and Business will have Coursework Components from Sept 2025 as well as the other subjects mentioned above from this September
- Important to aim for a very high standard in the coursework, assessment or oral.
- But do not forget the written exam!!!

# Apprenticeships

- ICT
- Arboriculture
- Biopharma
- Construction
- Electrical
- Engineering
- Finance
- Hairdressing
- Healthcare
- Insurance
- Logistics
- Motor
- Property Services
- Recruitment
- Sales and Management

# Apprenticeships Continued

- Insurance
- Logistics
- Motor
- Property Services
- Recruitment

# Tertiary Degrees

- Limited availability in the North East currently but will be increasingly available
- Courses which may have on the job training as well as access to parttime college course.
- No CAO application, applications through [nto.heai.ie](http://nto.heai.ie)
- Applications open from February to September.
- More information and application access through the National Tertiary Office (NTO), [nto.heai.ie](http://nto.heai.ie)
- May involve training through the ETB (Education and Training Board) for first 1-2 years and HEI (Higher Education Institution) to complete degree.
- Up to 20 different courses (Business, Engineering, Manufacturing, Construction, ICT, Arts, Health and Welfare.
- Available through a number of HEI's
- Each course has individual entry requirements

# PLC Courses

- Level 5 and 6 Qualifications
- An alternative route to College

# More Information

- Guidance Counsellors
- Subjects explained in Senior Cycle booklet on the Website
- Internet
  - [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)
  - [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)
  - [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)
  - [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
  - [www.apprenticeships.ie](http://www.apprenticeships.ie)
  - <https://hea.nto.ie>

# Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme



# What is LCVP?

- LCVP is an extra subject for the Leaving cert.
- It helps to develop lifelong skills
- As part of LCVP students will study the following–
  - Developing Teamwork skills
  - Report Writing Skills / Interview skills
  - Job Seeking Skills
  - Work Placement / Work Shadowing
  - Running an Enterprise Activity

# Link Modules

## **5<sup>th</sup> Year – Preparation for the World of Work**

- Job seeking skills such as letter writing, CV presentation, interview techniques and teamwork skills.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Year – Enterprise Education**

- Students learn how to set up and run an enterprise activity. Skills include developing teamwork, communication and ICT skills.

# LCVP requirements

- There are no longer subject or language requirements to study LCVP

# Assessment

- Portfolio – 60% handed up in March of 6<sup>th</sup> year
- Written Exam - 40% taken in May of 6<sup>th</sup> year.

# Portfolio

## Core Items

CV

Career Investigation

Business Plan

Summary Report

## Optional Items (2 needed)

Diary of work experience

Recorded interview

My own place report

Enterprise Report

# Certification & Recognition

Distinction	80% - 100%	66 points (H <sub>4</sub> )
Merit	65% - 79%	46 points (H <sub>6</sub> / O <sub>2</sub> )
Pass	50% - 64%	28 points (O <sub>4</sub> )

# LCVP and Higher Level Maths

- Current LCVP runs opposite one period of Higher-Level Maths.
- We have an additional class of LCVP (Subject to demand) after school for those who may wish to take HL Maths and LCVP.

# Leaving Certificate Applied



# What is different about LCA?

- It is a **practical** course
- **Work Experience** once a week.
- Students gain their results **in different ways** including interviews, written, oral and practical exams.
- **The exams in June of 6LCA account for a small percentage of the final mark**
- **The students receive the results of their assessment four times over the two years.**

# Who would benefit most?

- Students who struggle with learning
- Students who are considering leaving school.
- Students who prefer learning by doing.
- Students who are struggling with the Junior Cycle.

# What subjects are taken in LCA?

## Exam Subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Hotel, Catering & Tourism
- Graphics & Construction or Hair and Beauty
- Irish\*
- Modern Language\*
- Social Education

## Non – Exam Subjects

- Career Guidance
- Computers (ICT)
- Art
- PE
- Office Administration and Customer Care

## Choice subjects

- Childcare/ Engineering
- Science
- Horticulture

# How students are marked

## Credits for

- Attendance, class work and assignments
- 7 projects called tasks
- 7 final examinations
- *Grading: Pass, Merit or Distinction*

# Can a student who does LCA go on to further education?

- Yes. It is accepted for a wide range of Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) course at FETAC level 5.
- If students do well at PLC they can go to 3rd level using their PLC credits.
- They cannot go directly to 3rd level
- It also provides access to most apprenticeships and trades.

# CHOICES, CHOICES

- Spend time over the next few weeks discussing options
- Meet the deadlines for application, subject choice etc
- We are flexible and will facilitate change if we can
- We need an accurate idea to plan resources.
- Contact us if you need clarification

# Information for Students

- All third-year classes have had and will continue to have information sessions with the Guidance Counsellors.
- All TY classes have a timetabled guidance class each week
- All third-year classes will have information sessions on TY, LCVP and LCA
- Individual and Small Group Guidance sessions will be organised.
- Each class group has been assigned a Guidance Counsellor..
- The guidance Counsellors will work with individual students who are moving directly from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> year

# What Happens Next

- Class groups will have TY, LCVP ,LCA and subject choice for 5<sup>th</sup> year explained to them.
- Students will seek appointments with the Guidance Counsellor
- Links to application forms will be made available through the Vsware.
- Deadlines will be set for receipt of forms
- The presentation and the comprehensive information booklet will be available on the school Website
- An online form will establish which programme students are opting for
- Subject Choice for 5<sup>th</sup> year will be done through Vsware
- Option Lines will be generated by Vsware by random selection. Most will get all their choices.

# Subject Options - Vsware

- All subject choice will be done on vswareare
- This link will be made available on the through vsmail or sent to you by text
- <https://vsware.wistia.com/medias/kr62eqho2z>

# DEADLINES

Choice of 5<sup>th</sup> year, TY or LCA (via online form) will be

**1. Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Subject choice for 5<sup>th</sup> year will take place after that.

Subject Choice will be through Vsware

**Deadline: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 5pm**

Requests for change of subject will be considered following guidance consultation and availability of a place (A waiting list will be established) through the relevant Deputy Principal only.

# Most Importantly

- Attendance
- Attendance
- Attendance, **All Day Every Day**

Up to you!

