



Subject Choices for Senior Cycle

2025-2026

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N.B. Information in this booklet is for guidance only. All details on entry requirements **must** be checked on individual college websites as requirements change.

# 1 – The Leaving Certificate

During the final two years of Senior Cycle, students take one of 3 programmes, each leading to a State examination.

These are the:

- Leaving Certificate Established
- Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)
- Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

Most Senior Cycle students choose the established Leaving Certificate programme. This 2-year programme covers a wide range of subjects.

In general, students take 6 or more subjects (usually 7) for examination, one of which must be Irish. Subjects are normally studied at either Ordinary or Higher Level. Irish and Mathematics can be studied at Foundation Level. Foundation Level is geared to the needs of students who might have difficulty with subjects at Ordinary or Higher Level.

## Leaving Certificate marking system and assessment

- Students sit Leaving Certificate OR Leaving Certificate Applied exams at the end of 6<sup>th</sup> year. The timetable is created by the State Examinations Commission and all exams are supervised by teachers from other schools. Exams are corrected during the summer holidays by teachers from other schools using a common marking scheme for each paper and subject.
- Some subjects have additional assessments like oral exams in languages, a practical in music, construction and Engineering, project work in Art, History, Geography and Home Economics, as examples. The plan is to have a 40% Additional Assessment Component (AAC) in place for all subjects by September 2027.
- Some subjects have 2 written papers (Irish, English and Maths at present).

## Marking system for examination grades

- The examination scale has 8 grades, the highest grade is Grade 1 and the lowest grade is Grade 8.
- Marks between 100% and 30% are divided into seven grade bands (1-7). (see pg 4)
- Students' results are converted to points for courses that they apply to under the Central Applications System (CAO) website. This form is completed online during 6<sup>th</sup> year.

## Senior Cycle and Leaving Certificate reform

The Department of Education has announced plans to reform the Senior Cycle and Leaving Certificate. Subjects like Business, Physics, Biology & Chemistry will be part of Tranche 1 which will start in September 2025.

## 2 - Leaving Certificate Applied

The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) is a 2-year Leaving Certificate programme which prepares students for adult and working life.

The programme helps students apply what they learn to the real world.

The 2-year programme consists of 4 half-year blocks called sessions. Achievements are credited in each session.

The Leaving Certificate is a **different programme** covering a wide range of subjects taken over 2 years.

### Leaving Certificate Applied courses

Courses are offered in 3 main areas:

Vocational preparation, involving work experience, enterprise and communication

General education, offering life skills, the arts, social education, leisure and language

Vocational education

### Course structure

Each course consists of a number of modules. Each module takes place over half a year. There is also a wide range of practical courses, called vocational specialisms which are studied.

### Assessment and examinations

Students are assessed continuously throughout the course and there is a final examination.

Students are assessed on the completion of modules and practical activities that allow you to integrate learning from different courses.

The final examination must be taken in:

- English and communication
- Two vocational specialisms
- Mathematical applications
- Language
- Social education

There are written and oral examinations in all languages. There are practical examinations in the vocational specialisms. The written examinations usually take place in June, at the same time as the examinations for the established Leaving Certificate.

**Since September 2022, students taking the LCA programme can choose to take the established Leaving Certificate Mathematics and an established Leaving Certificate Modern Language.**

### The certificate awarded

Students who successfully complete the programme are awarded a Leaving Certificate from the Department of Education. The certificate is awarded at three levels:

Level	Marks and Credits Required
Pass	60-69% (120-139 credits)
Merit	70-84% (140-169 credits)

Distinction	85-100% (170-200 credits)
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Candidates who get less than 60% (120 credits) or who do not complete the course, are awarded a record of experience.

### **Leaving Certificate Applied, further education and third-level**

- If you are awarded the Leaving Certificate Applied, you can go on to a wide range of Post-Leaving Certificate courses (PLCs). PLCs take place in some Education and Training Board (ETB) schools, colleges and education centres.
- Courses offered include Art and Design, Business, Science, Services and Leisure, and Communications and Media studies.
- PLC courses can lead to an award recognised by the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).
- Students cannot go directly to nursing but may be eligible to apply as a mature student with certain qualifications or relevant experience.
- Students with the Leaving Certificate Applied can also go on to apprenticeship programmes. Many students go directly to employment.

### **Leaving Certificate Applied and the CAO**

- Students with the Leaving Certificate Applied cannot gain direct entry through the Central Applications Office (CAO) system to the universities or institutes of technology.
- Many PLC courses lead to either a level 5 or level 6 award. In some cases, you can progress with this award to a third level course in a higher education institution such as an institute of technology or a university.

### 3- Subject choice guidelines

- A) Students normally take seven subjects for Leaving Certificate.
- B) Irish, English & Mathematics are compulsory (unless exempt from Irish).
- C) A Modern Foreign Language is needed for lots of courses in Universities
- D) Each student chooses **four** subjects from the following:

History	Art
Geography	Music
Home Economics	Physics*
Business	Chemistry
Computer Science*	Biology
French	Physical Education*
Construction Studies	Spanish
Link Modules	Engineering
	Accountancy*

**\*New to St Kevin's CC for 2025 (Subject to demand).**

For the purpose of third level entry in the Republic of Ireland points are calculated by the CAO on the basis of the **six** highest scores taken in **one** Leaving Certificate sitting.

Points to consider when choosing subjects:

1. Subjects you are good at and have enjoyed at Junior Cycle.
2. Specific subject requirements for particular courses. You will need to research this yourself.
3. Balanced selection is good. If undecided about future courses, it is worth considering including a science subject to maximise options.
4. Students should seek advice from subject teachers, guidance counsellor and older siblings.

Useful websites for reference:

[www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)

[www.ucas.co.uk](http://www.ucas.co.uk)

[www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)

[www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)

## Applying to College – How it Works

There are three hurdles to College entry:

1. **College** Requirements
2. **Course** Requirements
3. **Points**

### 1. College Requirements

The Matriculation Requirement is the minimum academic qualification for entry that a College demands from an applicant. The following colleges require a **minimum of a pass at ordinary level** in the following subjects:

NUI (UCD, UCC, NUI Galway, Maynooth, RCSI)	English, Irish and a third language
TRINITY and UL	English, Maths and another language
DCU	Maths and English or Irish
OTHERS	Vary

### 2. Course Requirements

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

Some examples are:

- If you are considering any of the NUI colleges (UCD, UCC, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, RCSI), a **third language** is generally an entry requirement. However, some **exceptions** to this rule are as follows:

NUIG : Engineering, Science and Nursing courses

Maynooth: Engineering, Science, Business, Law

UCD : Engineering, Nursing, Science, Social Sciences, Computer Science, Agricultural Sciences, Economics and some others

UCC : Engineering, Architecture, Sciences and Nursing

- 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/Dentistry Courses - TCD : H3/H4 in two Laboratory sciences.

Medicine - UCD : O6/H7 in any laboratory Science

Medicine - Royal College of Surgeons: H4 in Chemistry + H4 in Physics **or** Biology

Medicine/Dentistry Courses - UCC : H4 in Chemistry + H4 in Physics **or** Biology

Veterinary Medicine - UCD : H5 in Chemistry.

This is not an exhaustive list - PLEASE CONSULT COLLEGE WEBSITE / PROSPECTUS.

### **3. Points**

- \*Points are allocated to the six best grades of an applicant.
- \*These grades must be achieved in one sitting of the Leaving Certificate Examination.
- \*Entry to a course which is competitive will be granted to those holding the highest points.
- \*The number of points required for any course in any year is not pre-set by any college.
- \*The points level reflects (a) results of the cohort of applicants for that year  
(b) number of available places for that year on that course.

Entry requirements for Third Level courses vary from course to course, so you must refer now to the relevant literature or go to the university website.



## 4- The Points System

### Higher Level

Percentage	Grade	Points
90-100%	H1	100
80-90%	H2	88
70-80%	H3	77
60-70%	H4	66
50-60%	H5	56
40-50%	H6	46
30-40%	H7	37
0-30%	H8	0

### Ordinary Level

Percentage	Grade	Points
90-100%	O1	56
80-90%	O2	46
70-80%	O3	37
60-70%	O4	28
50-60%	O5	20
40-50%	O6	12
30-40%	O7	0
0-30%	O8	0

25 bonus points will be awarded for Higher Level Mathematics, at grade H6 or above.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme		Foundation Level Mathematics	
<b>LCVP Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Foundation Level Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>
Distinction	66	F1	20
Merit	46	F2	12
Pass	28		

Points for Foundation level Mathematics will be awarded by certain institutions. Applicants should refer to the literature available from each institution for full details.

## 5 - Gaeilge/Irish

The Irish Department in St Kevin's Community College aims to teach the syllabus in a creative and stimulating fashion as well as promoting and fostering a positive attitude towards our culture. All classes follow the common syllabus in fifth year and the additional Higher Level material is taught in sixth year. We encourage as many students as possible to continue at Higher Level. Before deciding on whether to take Higher or Ordinary level for Leaving Certificate students should consider the following points.

1. The oral exam is worth 40% of the overall result and it is a common exam at both levels. Students will already have participated in CBAs from the Junior Cycle course and will therefore be familiar with the conversational skills required.
2. Grade H4 at Higher Level Irish is an essential requirement for admission to the Primary Teacher training colleges.

### Exam layout

Ordinary Level	Higher Level
Oral Exam 40%	Oral Exam 40%
Greeting (5m)	Greeting (5m)
Poetry reading (35m)	Poetry reading (35m)
General Conversation (120m)	General Conversation (120m)
Description of picture story (80m)	Description of picture story (80m)

Ordinary Level	Higher Level
<p>Paper 1 <span style="float: right;">27%</span></p> <p>Aural section (60m)</p> <p>Listen to and answer questions on pieces of news items, notices, announcements and conversations in all 3 Irish dialects.</p> <p>Write 2 pieces of composition (50m + 50m)</p> <p>Story/ Blog &amp; Letter/Conversation</p>	<p>Paper 1 <span style="float: right;">27%</span></p> <p>Aural section (60m)</p> <p>Listen to and answer questions on pieces of news items, notices, announcements and conversations in all 3 Irish dialects.</p> <p>Write 1 Composition (100m)</p> <p>Essay/Newspaper Article/Story/Debate/Speech</p>
<p>Paper 2 <span style="float: right;">33%</span></p> <p>Prose</p> <p>Answer 2 questions on 2 samples of prose works based on a summary of the story, character analysis and personal opinion.</p> <p>Poetry</p> <p>Answer 4 short questions based on theme, language and style of the poem.</p> <p>Reading Comprehension</p> <p>Read and answer questions on 2 pieces of writing (50m + 50m)</p>	<p>Paper 2 <span style="float: right;">33%</span></p> <p>Prose (30m)</p> <p>Answer 1 question on 1 prose work based on style of writing, character analysis and development of a theme.</p> <p>Poetry (30m)</p> <p>Answer 3 short questions based on theme, language and style of the poem.</p> <p>Additional literature. (40m)</p> <p>Answer 1 question based on summary and analysis of a play or novel studied.</p> <p>Reading Comprehension</p> <p>Read and answer questions on 2 pieces of writing (50m +50m)</p>

## 6 - English

### Aims

Building on the aims of English in the Junior cycle, the programme in senior cycle aims to develop in students:

- A mature level of literacy required for important tasks in everyday adult life;
- A respect and appreciation for the accurate and appropriate use of language;
- A competence in a wide range of language skills both oral and written;
- An awareness of the ways in which diverse forms of literature can be aesthetically enjoyable and can enhance our understanding of cultural identity.

### Content

The syllabus is organised around two general domains of comprehending and composing.

- Comprehension involves analysing and answering questions on a previously unseen text. Composition involves a range of essay writing tasks.
- Within these two domains of comprehending and composing, students will be actively engaged in using various styles of language. These styles can be classified under five general headings:
  - The language of information
  - The language of argument
  - The language of persuasion
  - The language of narration
  - The aesthetic use of language (or language of description).

In addition, a range of literary texts is prescribed for study. The range of prescribed material includes film, prose, drama and poetry.

### Assessment

Assessment is by means of a written examination at two levels:

- Ordinary
- Higher

There are two papers at each level.

## **I. Paper One (The Language Paper)**

Paper One consists of a number of unseen texts, linked by a common theme. A range of comprehending and composing tasks is set. In their written tasks, students are required to convey their knowledge of the five styles of language mentioned above.

## **II. Paper Two (Prescribed Texts)**

Paper Two is based on a range of literary texts prescribed for study.

- **The Single Text** section involves the close study of one stand-alone text (the most common choice is a Shakespearean play). Essay questions are based on topics including themes, characterisation, literary devices, relationships and audience response.
- **The Comparative Study** involves the analysis of comparisons and contrasts between three texts. The prescribed texts comprise films, plays and novels.
- **Poetry** is divided into a Prescribed and an Unseen section. In both sections, students are required to convey an understanding of poetry as an art form. The Prescribed essay requires an analysis of one poet's work. The essay should express an understanding of the key features of a poet's style and of the themes and key concerns presented in a selection of his or her poems.

## 7 - Mathematics

### Subject Overview

Mathematics is a wide-ranging subject that is both practical and theoretical, geared to applications and of intrinsic interest. Its manifestations permeate the natural and constructed world and provide the language and techniques for handling many aspects of everyday and scientific life. It is also an intellectual discipline that deals with abstractions and logical arguments.

Leaving Certificate Maths is provided in St Kevin's Community College at three levels: Higher, Ordinary & Foundation with a separate syllabus for each level.

- Strand 1: Statistics and Probability
- Strand 2: Geometry and Trigonometry
- Strand 3: Numbers
- Strand 4: Algebra
- Strand 4: Functions

Each mathematics course focuses on developing a student's problem solving skills. It enables students to relate Mathematics to everyday experiences. Students will experience Mathematics in a new way, using examples and applications that are meaningful to them. This will also allow students to appreciate how Mathematics relates to daily life and to the world of work. Skill, which will be developed, will include: analyzing, interpreting and presenting mathematical information as well as logical reasoning and argument.

There are 2 examination papers for Ordinary & Higher level maths, and 1 at Foundation Level.

## 8 - Modern Languages (French & Spanish)



### Why study a modern foreign language?

1. For almost all universities in Ireland a foreign language is a requirement. (Often a minimum of a pass grade on an Ordinary level paper is sufficient.)
2. The knowledge of one or more foreign languages increases your employability and job prospects.
3. Having a foreign language is a basic life skill and will benefit you whether you are travelling for holidays, study or work.

## French & Spanish

	Higher Level	Ordinary Level
Reading Comprehensions	30%	40%
Written Production	25%	15%
Oral Exam (c.12 minutes)	25%	20%
Aural Exam	20%	25%

TOPICS include: Self, family, work, school, where you live, hobbies, your future, society, topic and current issues eg. environment, addictions, poverty, Europe.

French or Spanish should only be chosen for the Leaving Cert by students who have studied them for their Junior Cycle?

To take up Spanish and French in 5th Year is a huge challenge and lots of extra work will be required.

In class, we also work on the premise that students have been studying the language for the past 3/4 years.

## 9 - History

In Leaving Certificate history there is a wide range of courses available to students. Of the four courses studied over the two years, two are taken from Irish history and two from Europe and the wider world. In recent years, students have chosen the following courses:

- America and the Wider World 1949-1989
- Nation States 1870 -1920
- Politics and Society in Northern Ireland 1949-1993
- Movements for Political and Social Reform 1870-1914

Other courses include:

- The Pursuit of Sovereignty and the Impact of Partition 1912-1929
- Dictatorship and Democracy 1920-1945.

The study of documents and primary sources is central to the study of Leaving Certificate history. Of the four courses studied, one is the prescribed documents course. It is the only part of the Leaving Certificate history where there is no choice.

The documents course rotates between European and Irish history every two years. For Leaving Certificate 2024 to 2025 the document course is European history from Dictatorship and Democracy 1920-1945.

Three short document based case studies are studied in depth.

Individual research is also an important part of Leaving Certificate history. The research project provides students with the opportunity for independent research on a topic of their own choice.



They may choose from military, social, cultural, political or economic history.

Such research enables students to develop the ability to choose a topic, define aims, locate and evaluate sources. They also learn how to develop a coherent argument and review the research process. These skills are essential for success at both third level and in life.

The research essay is worth 20% of the final exam and is submitted the April of the Leaving Certificate year.

### **Leaving Certificate Exam Paper**

There are four questions on the exam paper, three essay questions and one document question.

The document question is from the prescribed document course, the other three from the other topics chosen by the students. Each question is 100 marks. The total marks for the exam paper is 400.

For more information on Leaving Certificate history see the DES website [www.hist.ie](http://www.hist.ie)

## **CAREERS**

An interest in, and knowledge of history are relevant to any career related to current affairs – journalism, local and national radio and TV. History is valuable as a background to studies in law, town planning, architecture, politics, economics, sociology, music, art, museum and library work. History is a good training for administration, management and the world of business in general. History is a good all round education.

## 10 - Geography

### Course content and the Geographical Investigation (field study)

Leaving certificate Geography is divided into three units (i) core (ii) elective (iii) the option. There is a compulsory field study, which is part of the Core Unit. This field study is completed together as a class. However, the written report completed afterwards is completed on an individual basis and is due for submission in April of 6th year. This geographical investigation is **worth 20% of a student's final Geography grade.**

The teaching and assessment of **geographical skills** is an important element of the field study. Students are encouraged to improve their ability to gather information (from map-reading, statistics, charts), present information (using diagrams, maps, and writing), and evaluate information (separate fact from opinion, make informed judgments, propose sensible solutions to problems).

Strands of study are:

- Physical
- Regional
- Human Geography
- Geoecology
- Geographical investigation (20%)

### CAREERS

Geography can be studied at third level as a science or arts subject. It is useful in a wide variety of careers such as town planning, environmental science, engineering, tourism, cartography, meteorology and development work, logistics and geographic information systems.

## 11 - Home Economics

The Home Economics Course consists of a core and three elective areas. **All students will study the core and one elective area.**

### The Core Areas

#### Food Studies

- Food Science & Nutrition
- Diet & Health
- The Irish Diet & Irish Food Industry
- Food Commodities
- Meal Management & Food Preparation.
- Food Processing
- Microbiology
- Food Spoilage & Preservation
- Food Safety & Hygiene

#### Resource management and consumer studies

- Family Resource Management
- Household Finances
- Household Technology
- Textiles
- Consumer Studies

#### Social Studies

- The Family in Society
- The Family as a caring unit
- Marriage

### The Elective Areas

There are three electives from which students **must choose one**. The electives are extensions of content contained in the core and provide students with the opportunity to study certain topics in more depth.

1. Home Design and Management
2. Textiles, Fashion and design
3. Social Studies

#### Assessment

Home Economics with Textiles, Fashion & Design

- Written Paper 70%
- Garment 10%
- Food Journal 20%

Home Economics with Social Studies

- Written paper 80%
- Food Journal 20%

#### CAREERS

Taking Home Economics as a Leaving Certificate subject may be an advantage to students intending to pursue a career in the following areas:

Food and culinary arts  
Fashion design  
Food science and nutrition  
Interior design

Hotel and catering management

Nursing

Social studies

Product Development

Teaching

Childcare Profession

Enterprise Health

## 12 - Business

Business is one of the first subjects to be updated as part of the new Senior Cycle reform. This subject will start in September 2025 and will have a 40% Additional Assessment Component (AAC).

This specification is made up of four contextual strands:

- Exploring the business environment
- Understanding enterprise
- Leading in business,
- Making informed decisions
- in addition to the unifying strand Investigating business.

The unifying strand is designed to be woven throughout the contextual strands as appropriate. Four cross-cutting themes are identified—Ethics and sustainability, Entrepreneurial thinking, Business and financial literacy, and Digital transformation— which provide a lens for the learning within the specification and are often interlinked. These themes are woven throughout student learning where appropriate to act as lenses to explore the dynamic world of business. The cross-cutting themes are outlined briefly below.

**Ethics and sustainability:** Ethical and sustainability considerations are a cornerstone of how businesses transact with society and the environment and are factors in successful business operation. In the dynamic world of business, it is important for organisations to behave ethically, to be transparent and ethically engage with customers, employees, fellow stakeholders, their local community, and the environment.

**Entrepreneurial thinking:** The development of an entrepreneurial mindset helps students to think broadly, to recognise and act on opportunities, to consider risk, diversify and adapt to change, reach informed conclusions, and learn from their experiences. This helps to foster innovation which drives both personal and business growth.

**Business and financial literacy:** Business and financial literacy are key literacies in lifelong learning that help to empower students as individuals and as citizens to develop knowledge, behaviours, and dispositions that support making appropriate and informed business and financial decisions.

**Digital transformation:** Ongoing developments in digital technology have revolutionised the business landscape and disrupted how business operates. Examples of this include (but are not limited to) digitalisation, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and big data which all impact on businesses themselves, how customers engage with business, the world of work and how decisions are made. This rapidly changing environment challenges businesses and consumers to embrace innovation and to harness the power of digital technology while also addressing challenges that may arise.

### CAREERS

Business forms an intricate part of any third level business course and is also relevant to numerous career opportunities. Careers in business include Management, Human Resources, Banking, Insurance, Journalist, Law, Politics and the Public Sector.

## 13 - Art, Craft and Design

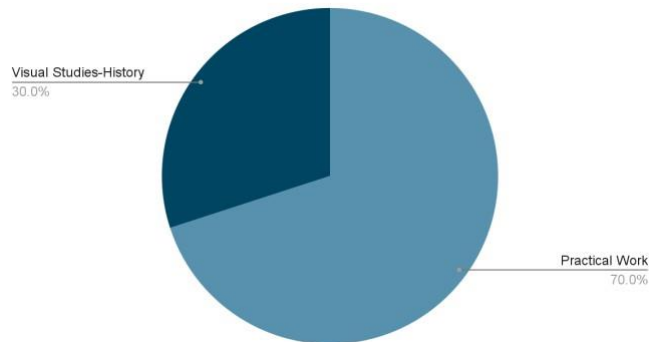
Leaving Certificate Art, Craft and Design is an exciting and engaging course that allows creative students the opportunity to build on their drawing and craftwork skills in preparation for assessment and begin the formal study of art history and appreciation.

### How is the course structured?

Students who choose Art, Craft and Design for the Leaving Certificate will spend **3 X 1 hour periods a week** studying the course.

- i. **Two** of these periods are practical lessons. These consist of learning the practical skills of drawing in different media, intaglio, poster design, painting and clay modelling. During practical classes students are also given the opportunity to develop visual creative skills and techniques.
- ii. **One** period a week is spent studying history and appreciation of art and design.

Breakdown of class time



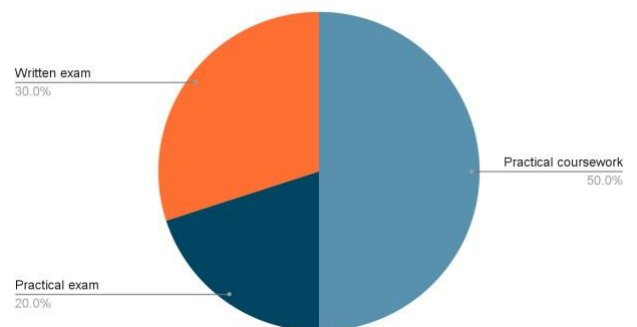
### Assessment

The examination is divided into 3 units.

1. Practical coursework during class time  
**only** - 50% (Jan - April sixth Year)
2. Practical Examination 20% (May of sixth Year)
3. Written (Visual studies) examination  
30% (June examinations)

70% on the practical element and 30% on the written history element.

Assessment



Art is assessed at two levels, Ordinary Level and Higher Level. The standard and quality of work determine the difference in level.

What kind of student would the Art, Craft and Design course suit?



*Example of Leaving Cert. Coursework.*

1. If you enjoy looking, creating and analysing then this is the subject for you.
2. Students who have shown an aptitude and interest for art before.
3. Anyone considering a career in a creative discipline such as Architecture, Marketing, Film and Entertainment, Web Design, Fashion, Game Design, or Advertising.
4. Students who are looking for a break from intensive memory-work in their other subjects, or to reduce pressure on themselves in June by having a subject with exams in April/May.

## CAREERS

Creative, lateral thinkers are highly sought after in many global companies. Art itself is now recognised for the importance it has within the corporate environment.

Art encompasses many aspects and elements of design and design processes which prepares students for a wide range of careers. A few are listed here: architecture, interior design, fashion design, marketing, advertising, photography, film and TV production, stage design, costume design, graphic design, museum curators, art therapy.

## 14 - Music

### **Subject Overview:**

The Leaving Certificate Music syllabus provides continuity and progression from the Junior Cycle Music course, but it is not necessary to have sat the Junior Certificate course to undertake the Leaving Certificate course. In providing the musical knowledge, understanding, practical competencies and attitudes appropriate to their age, abilities and interests, the syllabus caters for the varying needs of all students including those who wish to pursue further studies in music.

### **Course Content:**

As part of the Leaving Certificate Music course you can study everything from *The Beatles* to *Berlioz*, from *Mozart* to *Tchaikovsky* and everything in between.

The content of the course involves a series of interrelated musical activities within each of the three core areas of musical experience – (1) performing, (2) composing and (3) listening and responding. Each of the core components is worth 25% of the available marks, and the students then elect to undertake 50% of their work in one of above activities that best suits their interests and talents.

The performing component includes the presentation of a practical where the students perform chosen repertoire on their discipline at their standard. The performance can be undertaken as part of a group or on an individual basis. There is also an option to do Music Technology for those who prefer not to focus so much on performing (though an element of performance is compulsory for all students).

In composing, the students are required to develop the skills associated with the understanding of harmonic and melodic constructs. The students are expected to compose a 16 bar melody that must reflect understanding of style and structure, and includes a short modulation.

The students are also expected to analyse a given piece of music with accompanying chords and continue the piece adding their choice of chords while considering the stylistic implications of the given opening.

The listening element of the course spans different musical periods, styles and genres. For this part of the course, students will develop through the analysis of set works, their aural awareness of stylistic features, and the ability to listen critically, and to use these skills to demonstrate an understanding of the features of different musical periods and styles. As part of the listening component, Irish music, as an integral part of our heritage and culture, is studied in detail and students will develop an understanding of the changes that have impacted from both inside and outside the culture.

**Assessment:**

The assessment takes the form of a 2 paper exam in June, with the practical element taking place around the Easter Holidays each year.

Paper 1- Listening (100 Marks)	Paper 2- Composing (100 Marks)
Set Works Irish Music Listening Irish Music Essay Aural Skills	Melody Writing  Harmony
Practical (200 Marks)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students play/sing 6 pieces of music (200 Marks)</li> <li>2. Student play/sing 4 pieces on one instrument (100 marks) and play sing another 4 pieces on another instrument (100 marks)</li> <li>3. Student play/sing 4 pieces on one instrument (100 marks) and completes a Music technology task (100 marks)</li> </ol>	

**CAREERS**

Career Areas: Applicants with a well-rounded education are more likely to be successful in this competitive age. Music is useful for media work or studies, teaching, sound engineering, public relations, library work, communications, performance and music at third level.



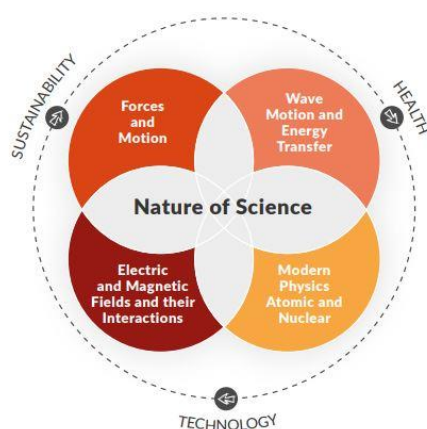


## 15 - Physics

Physics is one of the first subjects to be updated as part of the new Senior Cycle reform.

This subject will start in September 2025 and will have a 40% Additional Assessment Component (AAC).

The Leaving Certificate Physics specification is designed for a minimum of 180 hours of class contact time. It sets out the learning in strands and through the identification of cross-cutting themes. There are five strands; a unifying strand, The Nature of Science, and four contextual strands, Forces and Motion, Waves and Energy transfer, Electricity and Magnetism, and Modern Physics.



The Nature of Science underpins physics and so is considered a unifying strand; it permeates all the strands of the specification. The learning outcomes in this strand identify the knowledge, skills and values related to scientific practices which are essential to students' learning about science throughout the course, underpinning the activities and content in the other strands. The learning outcomes in the other four contextual strands—Forces and Motion, Wave Motion and Energy Transfer, Electric and Magnetic Fields and their Interactions, and Modern Physics—identify the knowledge of physics; i.e. the core concepts, models and theories that describe, explain and predict physical phenomena. The specification identifies three cross-cutting themes—Technology, Health and Sustainability—to act as lenses through which students explore the application of the knowledge from physics. Through these lenses they pose questions, examine the benefits of applications of the core concepts, models and theories to individuals, the community and the environment, and evaluate associated risks and any unintended consequences.

### CAREERS

Some of the career areas in which Physics can be particularly useful are medical, technical, engineering and architectural, electronic, communications, information technology and scientific.

## 16 - Chemistry

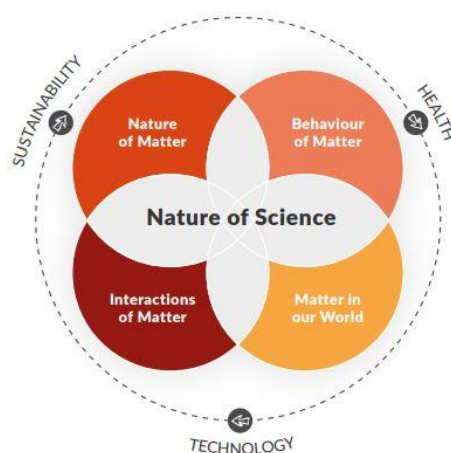
Chemistry is one of the first subjects to be updated as part of the new Senior Cycle reform.

This subject will start in September 2025 and will have a 40% Additional Assessment Component (AAC).

The Leaving Certificate Chemistry specification is designed for a minimum of 180 hours of class contact time. It sets out the learning in strands and through the identification of cross-cutting themes.

There are five interrelated strands:

1. The Nature of Science, which is the unifying strand, and four contextual strands
2. The Nature of Matter
3. Behaviour of Matter
4. Interactions of Matter
5. Matter in Our World.



Three themes that cut across all strands are identified as Health, Sustainability, and Technology.

They act as lenses through which students can explore the application of knowledge from chemistry.

### CAREERS

Not only is the place of Chemistry central to most courses in Natural Sciences offered in third level education, but it is also an essential element in the study of Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Engineering, Agricultural Science, Nursing, Pharmacy, Medical Laboratory Technology and numerous technician courses. It is advisable for Medicine in U.C.D.

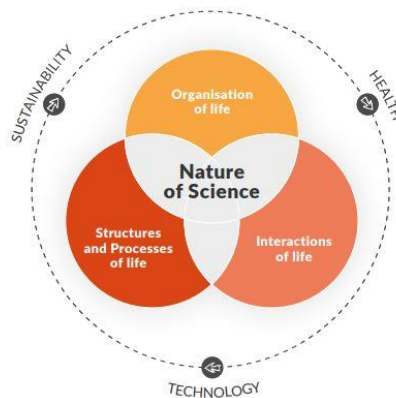
## 17 - Biology

Biology is one of the first subjects to be updated as part of the new Senior Cycle reform.

This subject will start in September 2025 and will have a 40% Additional Assessment Component (AAC).

This Leaving Certificate Biology specification is designed for a minimum of 180 hours of class contact time. It sets out the learning in strands and through the identification of cross-cutting themes.

There are four strands: a unifying strand, Nature of Science, and three contextual strands, Organisation of Life, Structures and Processes of Life, and Interactions of Life.



The unifying strand, Nature of Science, reflects continuity and progression from Junior Cycle Science and involves students applying the principles and practices of science to their biology learning in the three contextual strands.

The learning outcomes in the unifying strand identify the knowledge, skills, values and dispositions related to scientific practices which are essential to students' learning about science throughout the course, underpinning the activities and content in the other strands.

The learning outcomes in the other three contextual strands—Organisation of Life, Structures and Processes of Life, and Interactions of Life—identify the knowledge of biology which includes its core concepts, models and theories that explain and predict biological phenomena.

The specification identifies three crosscutting themes – Health, Sustainability and Technology. These themes, illustrated as surrounding the contextual strands, permeate and provide contexts for the study of these strands. They act as lenses through which students explore the application of knowledge from biology. Through these lenses, students engage with contemporary issues in biology as they pose questions and integrate and apply their learning from across the specification.

### CAREERS

Biology as a life science is a ground level subject which leads directly to many third level courses such as Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Natural Science, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Genetics, Food Technology, Nursing and Beauty Therapy.

## 18 - Computer Science

Computer science is the study of computers and algorithmic processes. Leaving Certificate Computer Science includes how programming and computational thinking can be applied to the solution of problems, and how computing technology impacts the world around us.

Students will learn:

- The practises and principles of computer science, such as computational thinking, computers and society, and creative design
- How to analyse problems in computational terms and understand concepts such as abstraction, logic, algorithms, computer systems, data representation and evaluation
- Programming languages and how to read, write, test and modify computer programs
- The process of designing computational artefacts such as web pages, digital animations, simulations, games, apps and robotic systems
- The ethical, historical, environmental and technological aspects of computer science, and how it impacts the social and economic development of society.

The role of programming in computer science is like that of practical work in the other subjects - it provides motivation, and a context within which ideas are brought to life. Students learn programming by solving problems through computational thinking processes and through practical applications such as applied learning tasks.

The Leaving Certificate Computer Science course is designed for all students. It applies to many aspects of students' lives and is therefore relevant to a wide range of student interests.

### Assessment:

There are two assessment components at each level, an end-of-course examination (70%) and coursework (30%).

Component	Percentage
End-of-course examination <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Computer-based assessment of learning outcomes</li></ul>	70%
Coursework assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● One computational artefact with report</li></ul>	30%
Total	100%

## 19 - Physical Education

Leaving Certificate Physical Education (LCPE) was introduced as an optional subject, on a phased basis, starting with a small number of schools, from September 2018. Students in these schools sat the first Leaving Certificate Physical Education examination in June, 2020. LCPE is now available in all schools from September 2020.

LCPE is designed to appeal to a broad range of learners, whether they excel in sport or have a keen interest in physical activity and sport either as a performer and/or as a coach/choreographer. So, if you would like to learn more about the theory underpinning performance in physical activity and about how to improve your own performance, this subject may be of interest.

There are three assessment components in LCPE: Physical Activity Project, Performance Assessment and the written paper.

Assessment Component	Weighing	Level
Physical Activity Project	20%	Higher and Ordinary
Performance Assessment	30%	Common Level
Written Exam	50%	Higher and Ordinary

### Physical Activity Project (20%)

The Physical Activity Project enables you to

- analyse your performance in one activity.
- set four performance goals.
- plan and implement a programme to improve.
- reflect on progress. Learners can use video, photographs and text, to tell the story of the project.

### Performance Assessment (30%)

In Performance Assessment you will compile a video of your best performance in one of the three physical activities studied in LCPE. The video will include footage gathered in a variety of contexts, including fully competitive and/or conditioned practices designed to showcase particular aspects of performance, e.g. attacking play.

### How will I learn?

Active participation is central to learning in LCPE. So, as you learn about the theories that impact performance, you will have the opportunity to put them into practice in the sports hall and/or outdoor playing area. You will be using a variety of tools, including video and photography, to analyse your own and others' performance. You will be using the data you have collected to:

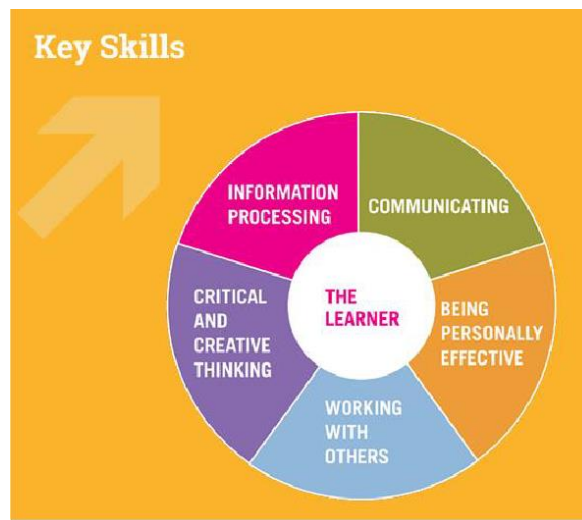
- plan for improvement.
- implement a training programme.
- reflect on progress.

There will be classroom discussions, debate and reflection on the different personal, social and contextual factors that impact on whether or not we are physically active or can excel in our chosen sport. Through this, you will develop valuable analytical and evaluation skills as you debate topical, and sometimes controversial, issues and study different viewpoints.

### How will it be useful to me later?

Your learning in LCPE will inform how you participate in sport and physical activity in your adult life. You will find LCPE useful if you want to study sports science, physical education, leisure and recreation courses, media studies and many other courses. There are five key skills in the senior cycle. You will develop these skills in LCPE and they will be useful to you in any future learning and in your everyday life.

### What are the key skills?



## CAREERS

Useful for the following:

- Sports Science
- Physical Education teacher
- Sports coach
- Sports Analysis
- Health and Leisure
- Physiotherapy
- Sports Management
- Personal Trainer

## 20 – Construction Studies

Construction Studies is a fantastic subject suited to the practical, active, hardworking and creative student. It tests a wide variety of skills and talents but also offers something for everybody.

It tests students' practical hand skills, dexterity and ability to work under pressure through its 4hr One Day Practical skills exam.

The project artefact tests students' creativity and inventiveness, along with their accuracy, work ethic and problem solving abilities to see them develop these designs through to reality in a workshop environment.

The brief portfolio tests students' design skills, artistic skills, ICT and time-management skills, along with developing their capacities for research and evaluation.

The written paper tests students understanding of everything to do with building construction. From the planning, architecture and design stages, through the build of everything from foundations up to roof, stairs, plumbing and heating systems. It also looks at the environmental impacts of construction, and how these, can and are, being reduced by the use of modern insulation and airtightness methods along with greener energy production methods.



Construction Studies	Higher Level		Ordinary Level	
<b>Project</b>	25% of marks		30% of marks	
	Artefact – 10%	Portfolio 15%	Artefact – 15%	Portfolio 15%
<b>Practical Exam</b>	25% of marks		30% of marks	
<b>Written Paper</b>	50% of marks		40% of marks	

In St Kevin's the vast majority of students take this subject at higher level.

We tend to put particular emphasis into the Continuous Assessment (project) and Practical elements of this subject, and we would regularly see students achieving 45%+ out of the possible 50% in these two areas.

Construction is a continuation of JC Woodwork, and while not imperative it is a help if students have previous experience. Students can take up this subject in 5<sup>th</sup> year but need to be extremely hardworking and committed to catching up on developing the skills that other students will have developed from 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Year.

### Project

- For the Artefact that you chose to make, you have an open ended brief – you can make anything you like
- Majority of students in St Kevins tend to choose furniture based projects
- Students can choose to make a model house (Heritage/Modern Architectural) OR a model of a building service
- A H1 standard Portfolio could be 100+ pages and challenges students on a large variety of skillsets.
- The Portfolio contains a mixture of Architectural style drawing, Detailed working drawings, Artistic style design sketching and ideas development + a detailed step by step account of your manufacture experience, along with a comprehensive Evaluation

### Practical Exam

- 4-hour exam usually during the first week of May
- Hand tools only, **NO** machines
- **NO** spare pieces allowed

### Written Paper

- 3-hour exam during June
- Answer 5 Questions at H.L worth 10% each
- Answer 4 Questions at O.L worth 10% each
- Lots of choice, as 11 questions are on both papers.
- Topics include: Architectural style drawings, Current building regulation drawings, Environmental Impact, House Design, Planning permission, Modern build systems such as Air2Water heating, Mechanical heat recovery, NZEB. There are also some mathematical based calculation questions.



## Previous Projects





Dillon Smith - 2018



Adam O'Reilly – 2019



Darragh McCormack – 2019



Shannon Harold - 2018



Sonny Conway - 2018



Waleed-Rouf Muhammod – 2017

## CAREERS

Construction Studies is such a broad and wide-ranging subject that give students a flavour of so many different areas of the construction industry. It particularly gives an insight to students as to what the following careers might entail:

\* Construction Management \* Carpentry \* Structural Engineering \* Quantity Surveying \* Electrical Engineering  
 \* General Construction \* Architecture \* Geomatics \* Plumbing \* Electrician \* Interior Design \* Town and Rural Planning



## 21 – Engineering

Leaving Certificate Engineering is the study of mechanical engineering.

Students develop skills and initiative in the planning, development and realisation of technological projects in a safe manner.

There are two main areas of study: workshop processes, and materials and technology.

This practical subject gives students hands-on experience of working with tools and machinery. Students also undertake theoretical and background work for their final examinations which provides useful skills for those considering a career in the sector.

### What kind of student might Engineering suit?

Each student should have an aptitude for and an interest in design and practical work. This subject follows on from Junior Cycle metalwork.

### Subject Content:

Health and Safety, Benchwork, Classification and Origin of Metals, Structure of Metals, Iron and Steel. Non-Ferrous Metals, Heat Treatment of Metals, Fabrication and Finishing of Metals, Corrosion of Metals, Plastics Processing, Machining, Materials and Technology, Materials Testing, Joining of Materials, Metrology, Manufacturing Processes, and Technology.

### Assessment:

Engineering	Higher Level	Ordinary Level
Written Paper	50% of marks	40% of marks
Practical	25% of marks	30% of marks
Project	25% of marks	30% of marks

This subject is examined at Higher and Ordinary level.

### Careers

Engineering is a subject that develops skills such as complex problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, coordinating with others and project management. These sought after skills are of great benefit in the following careers:

- \* Project Management
- \* All areas of Engineering
- \* Product Design
- \* Manufacturing
- \* Biomedical Technologies
- \* Computer Science
- \* Business/Marketing/Research & Development
- \* Management Consultancy
- \* Automation
- \* Industrial Design
- \* Computer Game Design
- \* Medtech

## 22 – Accountancy

The following are some of the main sections covered in Leaving Certificate Accounting:

### **Financial Accounting**

- Accounting Records
- Sole Traders
- Company Accounting
- Specialised Accounts
- Incomplete Records
- Cash Flow Statements
- Analysis and Interpretation of Financial Statements

### **Management Accounting**

- Marginal Costing
- Product Costing
- Budgeting
- Cash Budgeting
- Flexible Budgeting

The subject is examined at higher and ordinary level. Both levels involve one exam of three hours' duration.

The exam paper is made up of three sections, the first two are based on the Financial Accounting section of the course and the third covers the Management Accounting section.

Questions must be answered from all sections of the exam paper.

### **Careers**

Accountants do well in good times and bad, as their expertise is equally in demand when people have money to invest or when the business environment is not so favourable and there is a focus on cost controls. Accountancy provides a valuable foundation for all business functions.