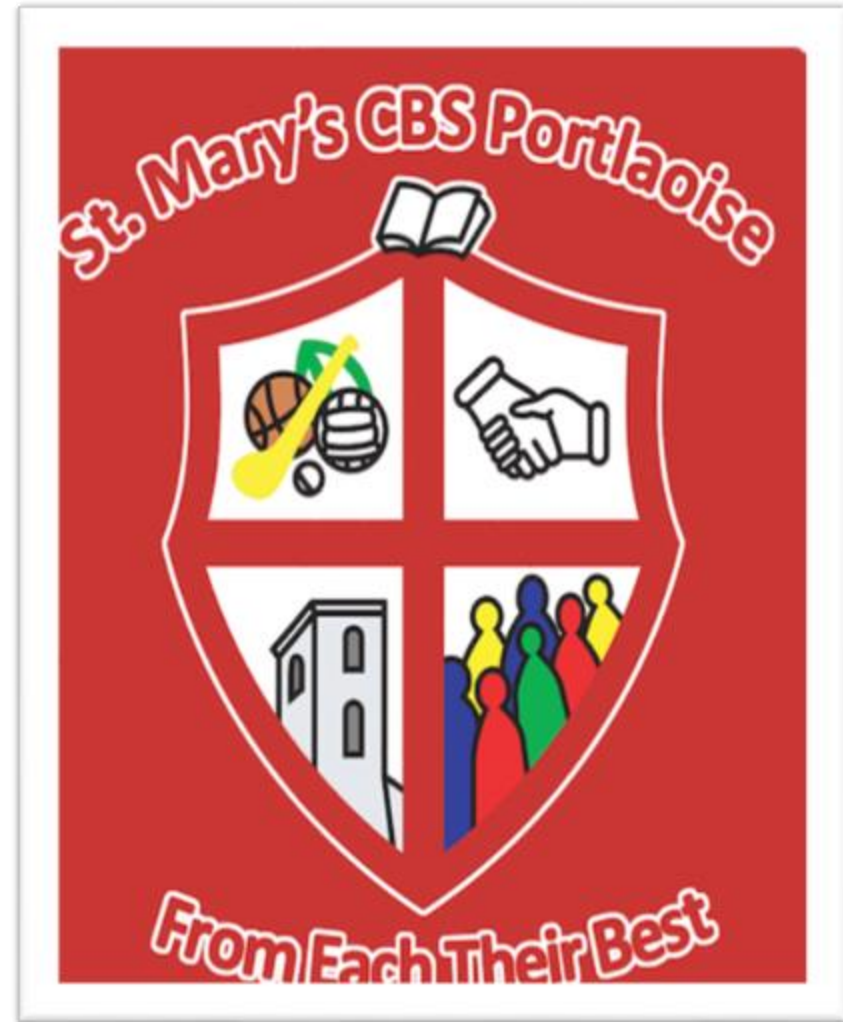


LEAVING CERTIFICATE SUBJECT CHOICE

A PRESENTATION EVENING TO PARENTS 2023

PRESENTED BY: C. PHELAN



GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

- This presentation was put together for you by the Guidance Counselling Department in St. Mary's CBS Portlaoise.
- The intention of this presentation is to act as a helpful guide to inform you and your sons about Leaving Certificate Subject Choice.
- There are many options open to your son now so take some time to research, discuss and reflect upon these options to make an informed decision.



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

The Leaving Certificate explained

Preparing for Subject Choice

Subject Choice: Attitude, Aptitude and Aspirations

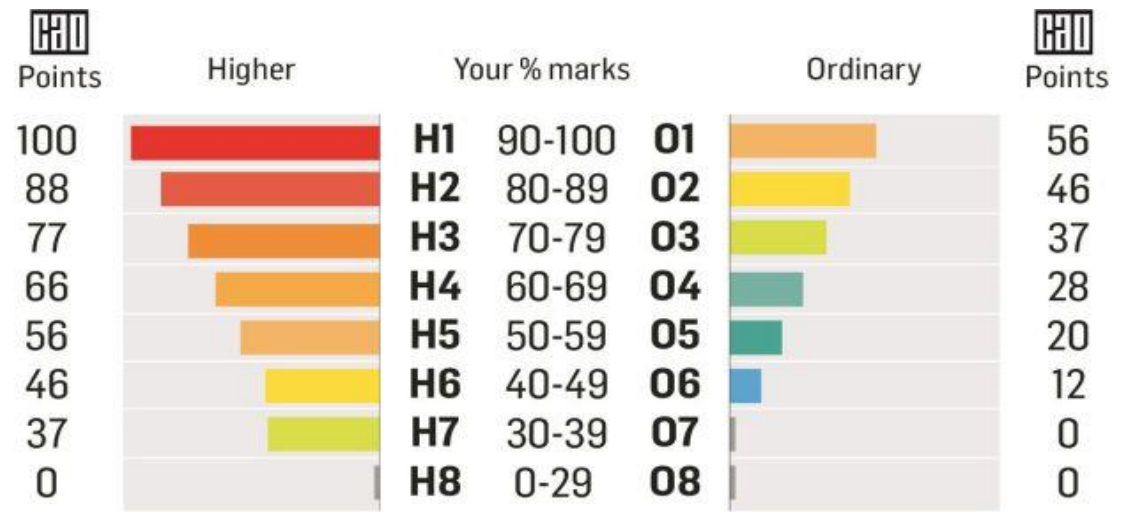
Useful Websites for further research

LCVP

THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE IS

- The Leaving Certificate is a two-year course of study - 5th Year and 6th Year.
- The Leaving Certificate culminates in a Written Examination in June 2025
- Most students will sit 7 subjects in their Leaving Certificate (unless they have exemptions).
- Most subjects have two levels- Higher and Ordinary Level
- Some subjects have additional assessment components such as oral examinations in Spanish and French, project work in Geography and History, etc.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE GRADES ARE EXPRESSED AS H'S AND O'S



+25 Bonus points for H1-H6 maths

LCVP link modules ■ Distinction 66 ■ Merit 46 ■ Pass 28

PLANNING FOR THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE

Most Leaving Certificate students take ***seven*** subjects:
*Some students may be exempt from Irish. **There are restrictions on some subjects, depending on subjects chosen for Junior Cert.**

The following is the list of subjects pursued in Senior Cycle:

- Core subjects:
- Irish
- English
- Maths
- Religion (*Religion is a core subject for all years*).

Choosing a Subject

A wise choice of subjects requires:

Subject Teachers,
Guidance Classes, TY
Programme

Guidance Counsellors,
Current Teachers

Consider all the
information, views and
opinions

L.C. Books,
Publications, Other
Students

Family, Friends

Then, ultimately each
student must make up
their own mind.

RESEARCH



DISCUSSION



REFLECTION



DECISION

THE IMPORTANCE OF
RESEARCH AND
DISCUSSION WHEN
CHOOSING YOUR
OPTION SUBJECTS

THEN CHOOSE 4 OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

BELOW ARE THE OPTION SUBJECTS ACCORDING TO SUBJECT GROUP TYPE – NOT AS BANDS ON TIMETABLE

<u>Science subjects</u>	<u>Humanities</u>	<u>Business Subjects</u>
Biology	Spanish	Business Studies
Physics	French	Accounting
Chemistry	History	LCVP Link Modules
Agriculture science	Society and Politics	
Computer science		
<u>Practical subjects</u>	<u>Arts / Creative</u>	<u>Social Subjects</u>
Construction studies	Art	Physical Education (Exam subject)
Design Communications & Graphics (DCG)	Music	Geography
Engineering		Home Economics (S&S)

PREPARING FOR SUBJECT CHOICE: WHAT WE HAVE DONE SO FAR?



We have held a Third -Year workshops on subject choice.



We have worked with TY classes in Career Classes on Subject choice.



We have created a Subject Choice booklet on the school guidance webpage which:

Informs you about your options

Points you in the direction of information on the content and assessment methods of each LC subject

Offers helpful questions/ information to assist your decision making

Explains what LCVP is and how useful it is as a subject/LC choice

Tells you a little bit about TY (Transition Year)



Our school website has a link to subject brochures created by your teachers in the school, outlining the content and assessment methods of their subject. They also list possible careers linked to their subject. It is a helpful resource, and we expect each student will take the time to read this.

HOW DO YOU CONNECT ALL THIS INFORMATION ON OFFER?



Attitude to the subject-
Enjoyment/Motivation



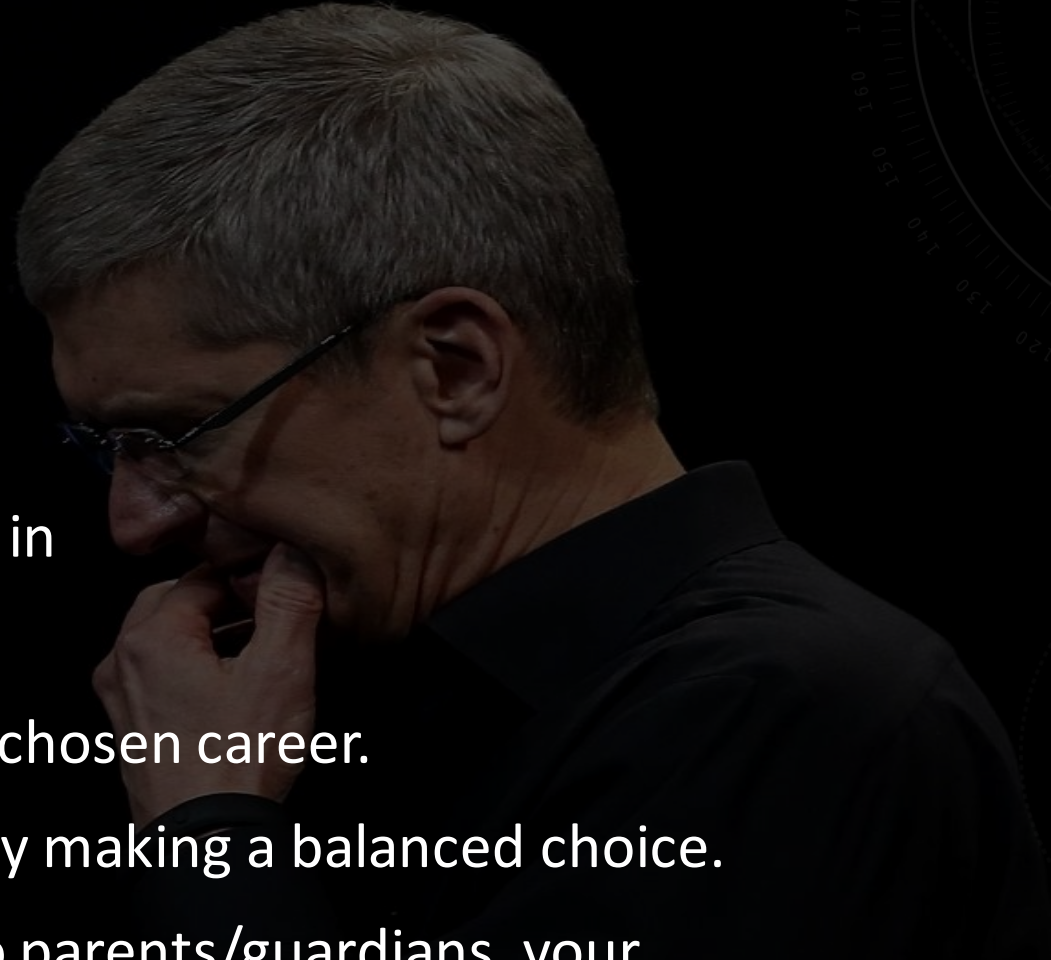
Aptitude in the subject-
Results/ Grades



Aspiration for your career-
Entry requirements

ATTITUDE

- Choose subjects that you enjoy.
- Choose subjects that you are interested in
- Choose subjects that you are good at.
- Choose subjects that you need for your chosen career.
- Keep your options open for the future by making a balanced choice.
- Make an informed decision by talking to parents/guardians, your teachers, guidance counsellors and friends.



You are the person who is doing the subject so avoid :

Choosing	Choosing a subject because your friend is taking it.
Choosing	Choosing a subject because you think it will be easy.
Choosing	Choosing a subject without finding out more about it.
Deciding	Deciding at the last minute without thinking about it.



LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION ON A SUBJECT?

The screenshot displays the Career's Portal website interface. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with 'EXPLORE', 'MEDIA', and 'TOOLS' dropdown menus. The left sidebar contains several menu items, with 'Senior Cycle Subject Choice' highlighted in a yellow circle. The main content area features an article about the portal's resources and a link to a happiness calendar. On the right, a calendar widget shows events for March 8th and 10th, 2021.

EXPLORE ▾ **MEDIA** ▾ **TOOLS** ▾

during the COVID-19 pandemic

Managing exam stress

CAO

Subject requirements for CAO courses

PLC routes into CAO courses

CAO Timetable of Events

CAO handbook

CAO guide for Parents

Senior Cycle Subject Choice

Senior Cycle Subject Choice School Booklet

Senior Cycle Subject Choice

Careers Articles

Leaving Certificate and SEC Accredited Grades 2021

The benefits of doing Transition Year

This is a fantastic resource for students and parents as Career's Portal is Ireland's biggest career's related website.

We will also highlight and advertise up-coming events and activities associated with career's in school. For example, college presentations to our 6th Years, 5th Years and TY classes, College Awareness Week (CAW), subject option presentations to 3rd Years and TY students, and before the end of February 2021 a presentation by Solas on How to become an Apprentice.

Please feel free to look around...

Finally...

Promoting Well-being is a key focus for the Guidance Department. With this in mind we present Actionfor happiness.org Happiness Calendar for February 2021. This months theme reminds us to connect with others and spread kindness., one day at a time.

<https://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendars>

Monday, March 8, 09:00

MAR 8 **ESB Apprenticeship 2021 Recruitment Campaign is now open for Applications.**
Monday, March 8, 09:00

MAR 10 **Career Path Expo - Wednesday 10th & Thursday 11th March 2021**
Wednesday, March 10, 09:30
Dublin

More events >

Career Events Nationwide

MAR 10 **Maynooth University - MU Seachtain na Gaeilge**
Wednesday, March 10, 10:00
Maynooth University

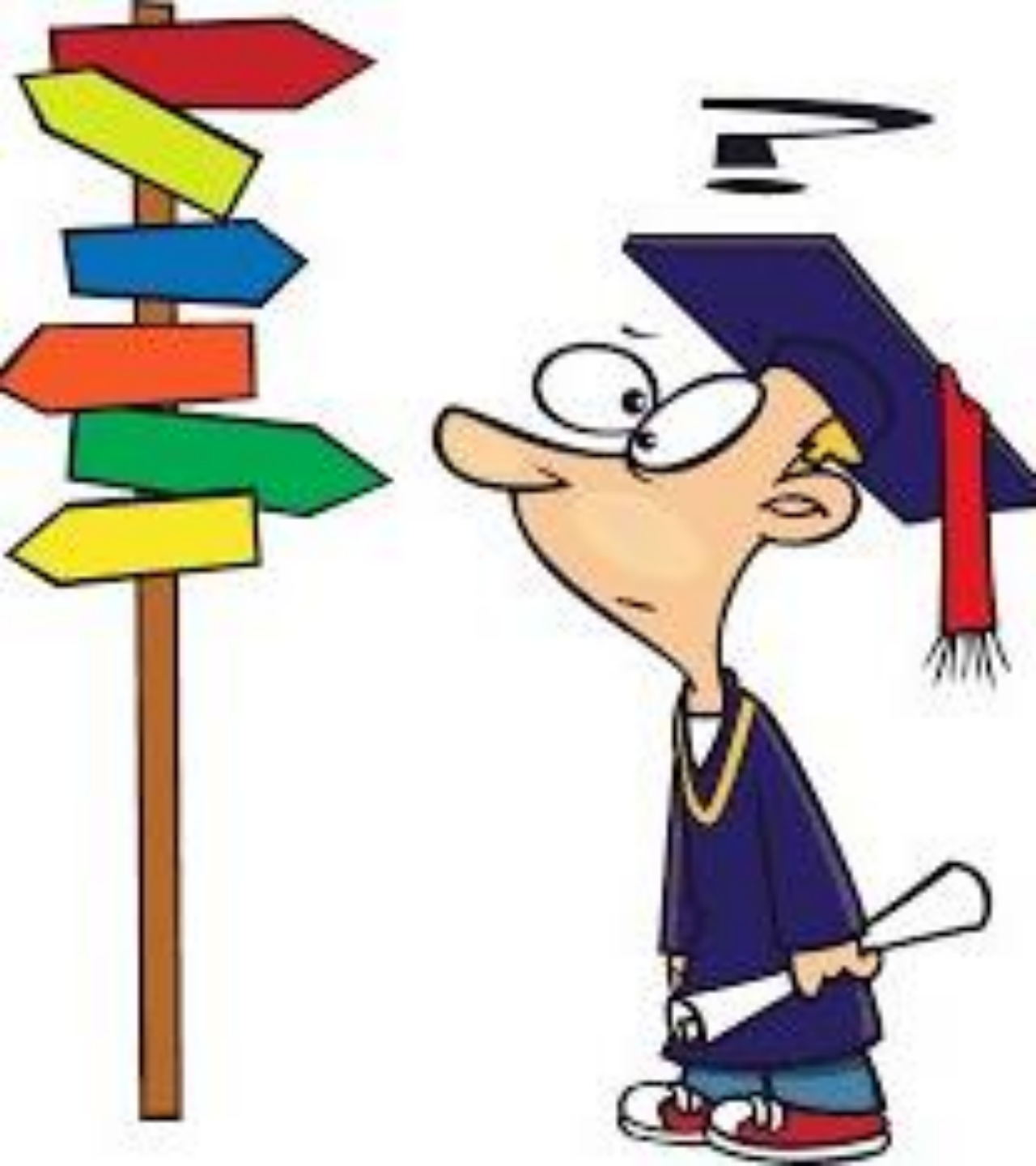
MAR 10 **Irish Film Institute - Careers in Screen Day**
Wednesday, March 10, 10:00

MAR 10 **MU One-to-One Information Sessions**
Wednesday, March 10, 10:00
Maynooth University

APTITUDE

- Consider your strengths. What you are good at?
- Reflect upon past results in each of your subjects. Think about Summer results in 1st& 2nd Year, Mock result and if you have your JC results.
- Ask your teachers for their opinion on taking on a subject for Leaving Certificate.





ASPIRATION: IRELAND AND ABROAD

- College
- Post Leaving Certificate Course
- Apprenticeships
- Traineeships
- Work
- Other

GENERAL ADVICE

Some people know at an early stage what they would like to do, but many others have no definite ideas about the kind of work they would like to do.



In order to choose a career a young person needs information on; university entrance requirements, opportunities available in the world of work and an awareness of their own qualities, skills and potential.



Good decisions are based on good information.



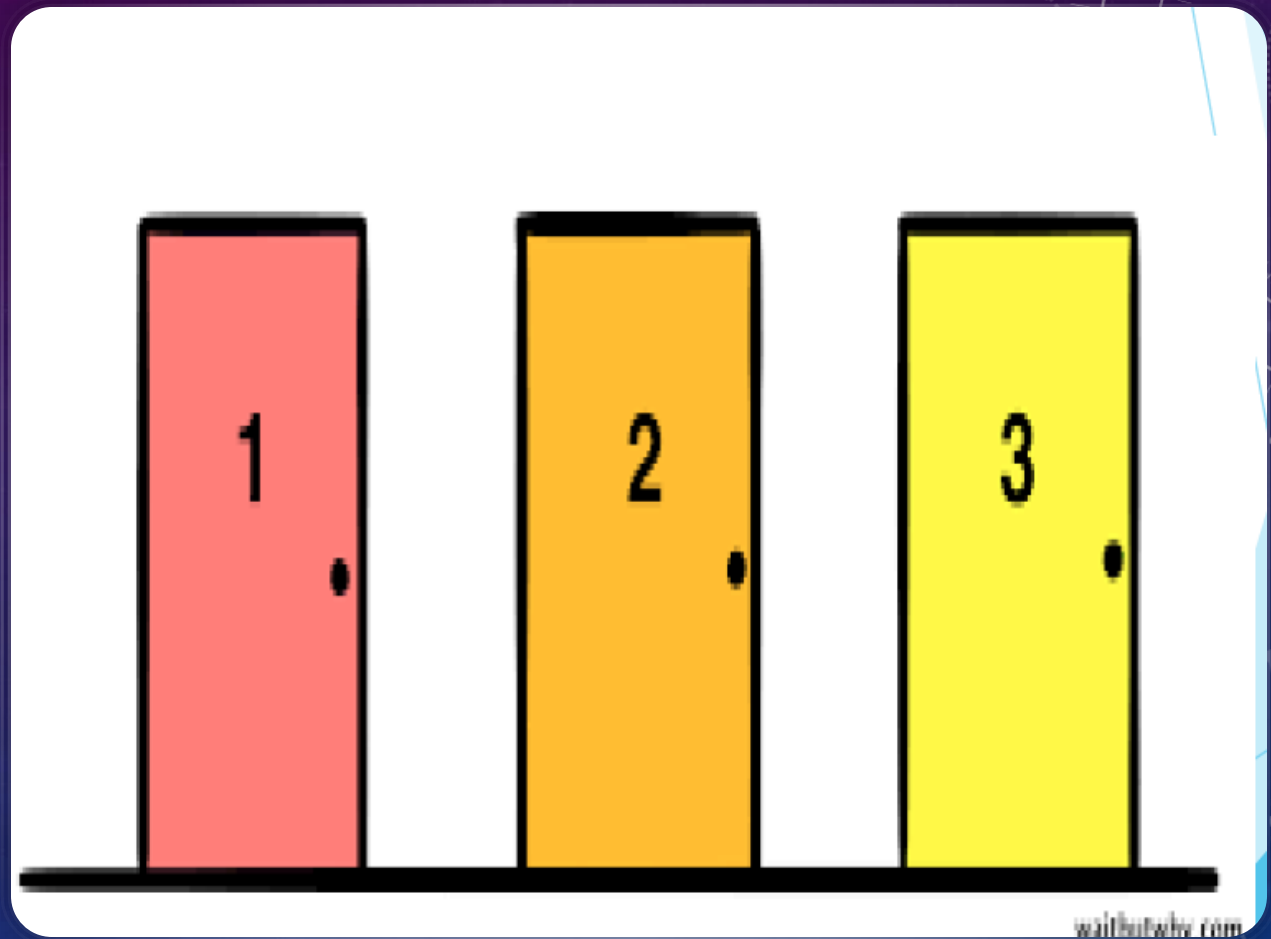
LC subject choice is important because it impacts on courses and college available to you.

HOW TO QUALIFY FOR COLLEGE ENTRY IN IRELAND

The 'three doors' metapho r

We suggest this image as an illustration of the requirements needed to go to college in Ireland.

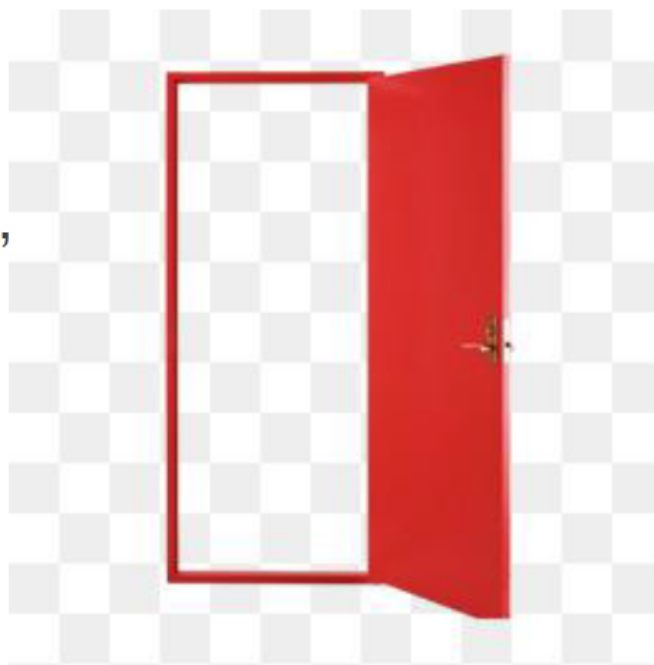
Keep these requirements in mind when choosing your subjects.



Minimum Entry Requirements Matriculation

These are the basic requirements that you must have in order to be able to go to Third level.

Usually relate to Irish, English,
Maths and a language



SOME EXAMPLES OF MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- The subject level you choose (higher or ordinary level) at LC will affect the College you may potentially go to.
- For Example, if you wish to go to University College Dublin (UCD), the basic requirements for this college is 2 H5 and 4H7/O6 (and generally includes Irish, English and a language).

<https://www.qualifax.ie/>



Certain courses at third level require students to have taken a specific subject in the Leaving Certificate and to have achieved a certain grade in it.



Some Specific Course Subject Requirements

Primary School Teaching requires a H4 in Irish

Veterinary requires a H4 in Chemistry

Medicine in UCD, Trinity, RCSI and UCC have all different requirements (1 science subject/2 science etc)

DOOR 2: SUBJECT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

The final door - Points



- University courses are allocated a points value based on the number of places available and the demand for those places.
- Points are added up on the basis of each student's best six subjects in the one sitting of the Leaving Certificate.
- There is 25 Bonus points awarded for students who sit Higher Level Maths and achieve a H6 or above.

SUMMARY

Remember the three key requirements for entry to college courses in Ireland:

Minimum Entry Requirements

Subject Requirements

Points



A student is only offered a place in a course if he has met these three requirements.

A WORD ON KEEPING OPTIONS OPEN

- We recommend you consider choosing a Modern Language and a Science Subject for your Leaving Certificate, especially if you are unsure what you want to do after Secondary School.

(The next slides will explain why.)

- Don't forget we have 2 choices in the business subject area:-

Accountancy

Business Studies



Third Language:

UCC
NUI Galway
UCD
Maynooth University Royal
College of Surgeons

All require a **pass** in a third language for most of their courses.

Other colleges require it for certain courses with a large language component.

For example:

- European Studies
- Languages & Marketing
- Hotel Management
- Languages & International Tourism

Third Language



Entry to the Cadetships in the Defence Forces requires a third Language.

NCAD require a third language or Art.

Many science & engineering courses include for example, Technical French or German, from scratch.

NO THIRD LANGUAGE REQUIRED:

1.

- Trinity College
- University of Limerick
- D.C.U.
- T.U.D.
- Technical Universities

2.

UCC	(23 courses not needing a third language)
NUIG	(23 courses not needing a third language)
UCD	(25 courses not needing a third language)
Maynooth University	(38 courses not needing a third language)

Unless it is a specific course requirement. A pass in Irish will suffice.

THE SCIENCES

A pass in *at least* one Laboratory Science subject is needed if you are applying for anything in:

Engineering	Pharmacy
Human Nutrition/ Dietician	Medical Laboratory
Paramedical	Podiatry
Radiography	Veterinary
Physiotherapy	Nursing
Medical	Science areas at Universities

Physical Ed. + Maths (DCU)	Design & Manufacture (UL)
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Both require a science subject.

i.e: Biology, Physics, Chemistry or Agricultural Science.

!!! Course requirements should be checked on an individual basis !!!

USEFUL WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS:

- Our CBS School Guidance Webpage found on the school website portlaoisecbs.com
- Careers Portal webpage www.careersportal.ie
- Qualifax website www.qualifax.ie



A WORD ON LCVP

- This is a programme offered to fifth years and Leaving Certificate students.
- The programme combines the academic strengths of the Leaving Certificate with a new and dynamic focus on self-directed learning, enterprise, work and the community.
- Typically, LCVP students take seven Leaving Certificate Subjects. LCVP is an additional programme we offer our students.
- Students no longer need a subject combination to take LCVP.



THE LINK MODULES

Link Modules 1

Preparation for the world of Work

- This module is designed to develop students' general understanding of the world of work, introduce them to career research and provide them with the knowledge and skills to find employment.
- As part of this module each student is expected to complete a career investigation and engage in a work experience or work shadowing placement.

Link Modules 2

Enterprise Education

- This module aims to develop creativity, resourcefulness, self-confidence and initiative. Students are encouraged to interview enterprising people, investigate local enterprises and set up their own enterprise projects as vehicles of learning.

USEFUL POINTS ON LCVP

Assessment

Written examination (40%)

Interview & Portfolio of coursework (60%)

88% of LCVP students use it as one of their six subjects when calculating points for college

Distinction 66 Points (=H4 / >O1)

Merit 46 Points (H6 / O2)

Pass 28 Points (O4)



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