

A guide to your opportunities in Senior Cycle

St Mary's CBS Portlaoise



Leaving Certificate Year Class 2027

Your options for Senior Cycle are outlined in this booklet. Take your time to read it and consider all your options. After which, if you still have any questions, contact

one of the people listed below. You might also consider talking with a subject teacher e.g. a Geography teacher

Career Guidance Counsellors: -

Ms. Caroline Brennan and Ms. Catriona Phelan.

(You will find our offices on the library corridor. Ms. Phelan works in office RF 33, while Ms. Brennan works in RF 34.)

Transition Year Coordinators: -

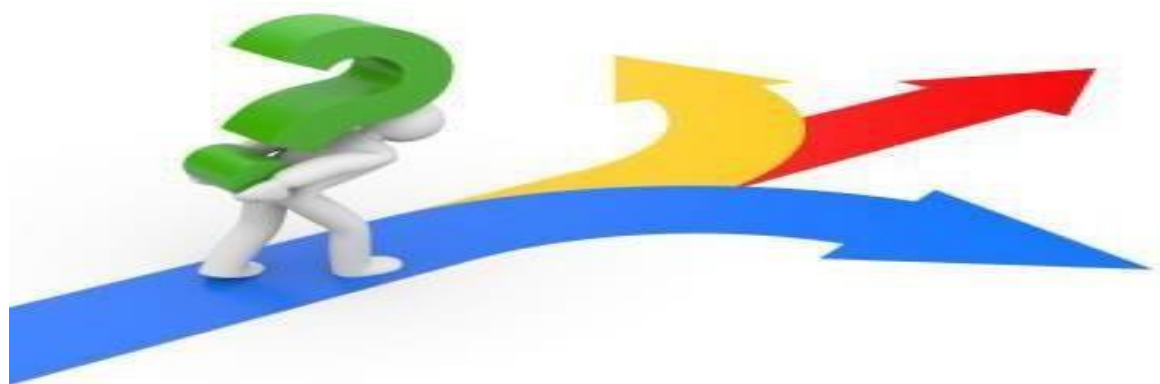
Mr. P Cahillane

Deputy Principals: -

Mr. B Thompson, Mr. C Mulligan

Principal

Ms. M Murphy



A time to reflect on your next step

Our aim with this information booklet is to:

- Inform you about your options
- Point you in the direction of information on the content and assessment methods of each LC subject
- Offer helpful questions/ information to assist your decision making
- Tell you a little bit about TY (Transition Year)

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*).

You then select any **four** optional subjects, in order of preference, from the following:

Option Subjects according to subject group type – not as bands on timetable

Science subjects

Biology

Physics

Chemistry

Humanities

Spanish

French

History

Business Subjects

Business Studies

Accounting

Agriculture science

Society & Politics

Computer Science

Practical subjects

Construction studies

Design Communications

& Graphics (DCG)

Engineering

Arts / Creative

Art

Music

Social Subjects

PE (exam)

Geography

Home Economics (S&S)

(All examination subjects are provided at Higher and Ordinary Level, subject to demand).

Finding out about the content of each subject specification at Leaving Certificate level

We have created a senior cycle subject options pamphlet describing each subjects' structure, content, assessment methods and career progression routes. We will share this booklet with all

incoming fifth years through the Teams platform. We will also provide subject taster workshops for you to all to ensure you can ask questions on subject options you are considering and explore each subject option in more detail.

This booklet is a helpful resource, and we expect each student will take the time to read this. To access this information, follow these directions:

St Mary's CBS Home Page



Under Downloads Click on Senior Cycle Subject Options Booklet

Other useful websites

Careersportal.ie (Access information on this website by following the directions below)



@school (top of Home page) Junior Cert (Box) Guide of LC subjects

Qualifax.ie

- Information on college courses (go to **Students** (tab on top of the home page) then **All Courses** Type your **course choice** in box provided)

General advice and information on Subject choice and college application



Some people know at an early stage what they would like to do, but many 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

It is important to know the following University Entrance Requirements

- Minimum entry requirements for colleges (matriculation requirements)
- Subject requirement for your chosen course /career
- Academic entrance requirements e.g. Points in the CAO system (these may change each year)

**** We highly recommend that students choose a Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish). Some colleges/universities do not accept students without a Modern Foreign Language. It is very important that you investigate this further should you decide not to choose a language. Below are some of the institutions that have this requirement. ****

University College Dublin

University College Cork

National University of Ireland, Galway

Maynooth University

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Shannon College of Hotel Management

National College of Art and Design, Dublin

Institute of Public Administration

St. Angela's College, Sligo

Burren College of Art

It is recommended that you strongly consider doing a Science subject to keep options open for Science and Medical careers. Some third level courses require two Science subjects.

All subjects are equally valuable. Students should **pick subjects they enjoy or expect to do well in.** For **Science or Medical courses, you will need one or even two Science subjects.** However, for example, you do not need History in your Leaving Certificate to do History in college. You do not need Business or Accounting to do Business or Accounting in college. If

you are thinking about doing subjects like History or Business etc. in college, you should most certainly pick these for the Leaving Certificate because you like these subjects.

Below is a general guideline only for the general requirements for some disciplines and is subject to change. You should consult the individual institution's prospectus.

1. Clinical Speech Trinity H4 in math/applied math
2. Medicine Trinity H3+H4 (can't do Ag. Sci + Bio)
3. Medicine NUIG 5 yr degree: H5 Chem. Merit order H5 other science 6 yr degree: Lab Sci (or Ag. Sci.)
4. Medicine UCC H4 in Chem + H4 Phy or Bio 5. Medicine UCD Lab Sci.
6. Medicine RCSI 5 yr degree: H4 Chemistry+ H4 Physics or Biology 6 yr degree: Lab. Sci. or Ag. Sci.
7. Dentistry Trinity H4 in 2 science subjects
8. Dentistry UCC H4 Chem.+ H4 Phy/ Bio
9. Physiotherapy Trinity H4+H4 (or Ag. Sci.) 10. Physiotherapy RCSI/UCD Lab. Sci. (or Ag. Sci.)
10. Physiotherapy U. Limerick O3/H7 Lab. Sci. or Ag. Sci.
11. Occ. Therapy Trinity H4 Lab. Sci. or Ag. Sci.
12. Occ. Therapy UCC/UCG Lab. Sci. or Ag. Sci.
13. Radiography Trinity H4 in Lab. Sci.
14. Radiography UCD Lab. Sci.
15. Pharmacy Trinity/UCC H4 Chemistry & H4 Lab Sci. or Ag. Sci.
16. Pharmacy RCSI H5 Chemistry
17. Nutrition DIT H4 Chemistry
18. Vet UCD H5 Chemistry (Biology strongly recommended)
19. Vet Nurse (8) UCD O3/H6 Lab. Sci. or Home Ec.
20. Vet Nurse (7) TUS(formerly Athlone) H6/O3 Lab. Sci.
21. Vet Nurse (7) Dundalk H5 Biology or Ag. Sci.
22. Vet Nurse (7) ATU (formerly Letterkenny) H7/O6 Lab. Sci. or Ag. Sci.
23. Science UCD Lab. Sci. (or Geography or Applied Math)
24. Science Trinity H4+H4 (or Math, Applied Math, or Geography) 25. Science Maynooth H7/O6 Lab. Sci. (or Math, Applied Math or Ag. Sci.)
26. Science UCG H7/O6 Lab. Sci. or Ag. Sci.
27. Engineering Maynooth Lab. Sci. or Ag. Sci. or Applied Math + H4 in Maths
28. Engineering NUIG Lab. Sci. or Ag. Sci.
29. Engineering UCD Lab. Sci. 31. Nursing H7/O6 Lab. Sci. or Ag. Sci

Questions to help you make your decision



Aptitude

- A. What subjects did you study for your Junior Certificate? Input your subjects and the results you got in this subject in the Summer of First Year, Second Year, Pre-Mock or Junior Cert (if you have already sat your Junior Cert). You will find this information on your Tyro account.

*Take note of the option subjects you scored consistently highest in. This may highlight your areas of strength.

Subject	First Yr. Summer	Second Yr. Summer	Pre- Mock/ Junior Cert Result
English			

Now highlight your four highest option subjects each year

Attitude to the subject

- B. What was/were your favourite subjects and why? What topics did you enjoy in this/these subjects?

Subjects I enjoy	Reason I liked this subject	Topics I liked
1.		
2.		

3.		
4.		

- C. Other areas of strengths which I have outside of school include (Voluntary work, part-time work that interests you)? What subjects would be useful to support this strength in the future?

Q: What career/course/ apprenticeship thoughts have you on your future? What subjects may be useful for this course, apprenticeship etc.

Activity: Mini Career Investigation:

Take some-time to explore a career/course/apprenticeship which you may be interested in and answer the questions which follow:

What course / College/ Apprenticeship etc. are you going to look up:

- A. Tell me a little why this course is of interest to you?

- B. What strengths or skills do you feel you have for a career in this field?

What Level on the NFQ is does your course/apprenticeship etc. fall into?

What are the entry requirements into this career/field?

_____ E.
How might these entry requirements influence your subject choice?

_____ F.
What are you qualified in when you finish your course/apprenticeship etc.?

Resources worth exploring:

- https://careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer_more.php?parent=2034&ed_sub_cat_id=393&menu_parent_id=
- For apprenticeship information www.CAO.ie then click on further education and apprenticeships, then click on the link to apprenticeships, this will allow you to explore the different apprenticeships.
- For Tertiary degrees, more information can be found at www.nto.ie
- For Post Leaving Certificate Courses (PLC course), go to www.CAO.ie then click on further education and training tab and follow the link to Further Education level 5/6
- www.qualifax.ie – then click on useful tools- then click on minimum subject requirement- then Leaving Certificate
https://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=77

Now having spent time reflecting on your Aptitude, attitude, aspirations now you need to research the content, assessment method etc. of the subjects you are considering for senior cycle. Place your option subjects in order of your preference

Option Subject	Topic I am looking forward to in this subject	Assessment Method	Career Possibilities from this subject	Any Concerns I have around this subject
1.				
2.				

3.				
4.				
5.				

Student Signature: _____

Parent/ Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____