

Cross & Passion College

Kilcullen, Co. Kildare



CHOOSING THE RIGHT OPTIONS AT SENIOR CYCLE



Dear Student,

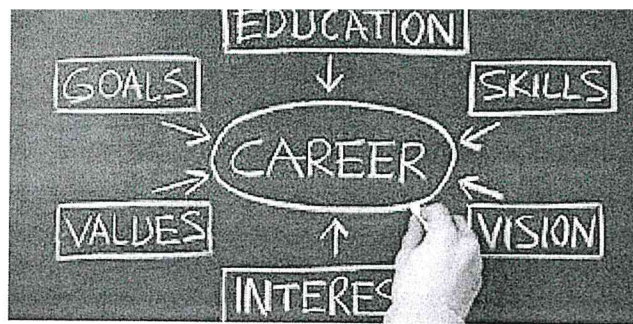
Moving forward into the Senior Cycle is an exciting time of transition and time when some major decisions have to be made by you. It is important that you choose your subjects carefully as this could affect what you want to do in the future.

You might already know which subjects you enjoy or have some career ideas. Don't worry if you don't know what you want to do in the future. As long as you choose a good balance of subjects now, it should leave your options open. Just remember to consider all the facts and ask for help if you need it.

It must be pointed out that the onus is on students to check the requirements for each of the courses in which they have an interest and they must put in the time necessary to research the consequences of taking or not taking a certain subject.

Who can help? Your leading sources of information and guidance will be from your Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s), your Guidance Counsellor and Teachers.

The Staff and Management of Cross and Passion College are proud to support you and wish you every success in choosing the right options at Senior Cycle.



Advice in relation to choosing subjects for Leaving Cert.

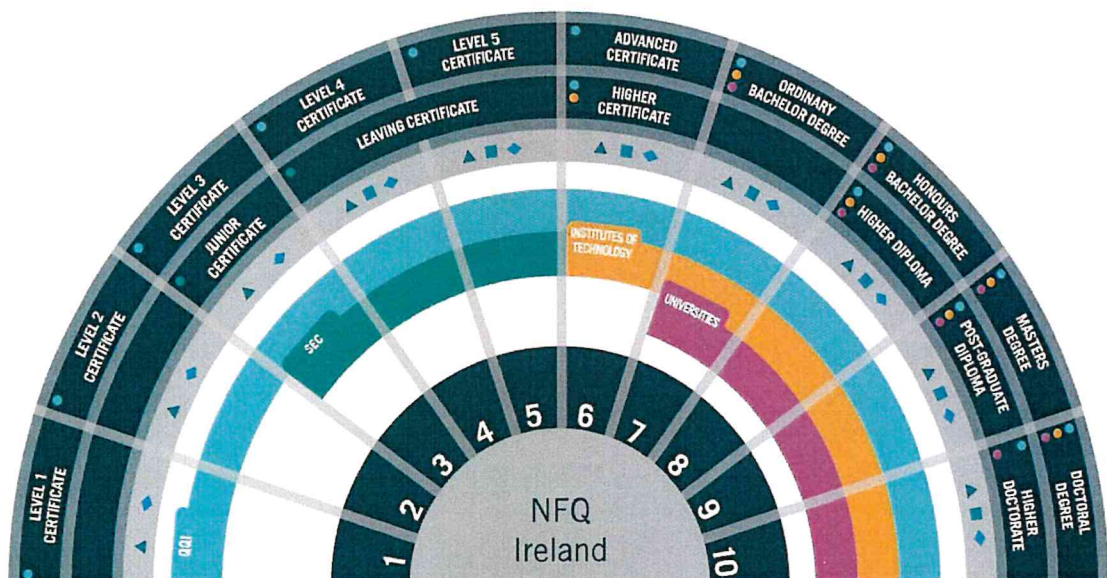
- 1 *Choose subjects that that you are interested in. Your interest will help you to commit to study and will therefore positively influence the outcome. You are likely to do better at subjects you find interesting.*
- 2 *You Junior Cert experience will have provided you with an insight into the subject areas. You will know what you are best at. You will know and those closest to you will know what you have an aptitude for. Listen to what your experience has been.*
- 3 *The Aptitude test taken earlier this year will indicate where your strengths lie and these also need to be taken into account. It is fair to say that this aptitude will not have told you much that you were not already familiar with.*
- 4 *Avoid choosing subjects for the wrong reason. Do not select a subject just because your friends are doing it nor because of the teacher who is teaching the subject.*
- 5 *Speak to trusted senior students who have recent experience of your preferred subject this is potentially very useful/*
- 6 *Speak with the teachers who are teaching a subject that you are considering.*
- 7 *Speak with your parents*
- 8 *Consult with the Guidance Counsellor.*

Do	Don't
Choose subject you enjoy	Choose a subject because your friend is taking it
Choose subjects you are good at	Choose subject just because you like or dislike the teacher
Choose subjects you need for your chosen career	Choose a subject because you think it will be easy
Keep your options open for the future by making a balanced choice now	Choose a new subject without finding out more about it
Talk to your Guidance Counsellor and your teachers	Make a decision at the last minute without thinking about it
Talk to your Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s)	Don't panic

The Points System

Higher Level Grades	Higher Level Points	% Bands	Ordinary Level Grades	Ordinary Level Points
H1	100	90-100%	O1	56
H2	88	80-89%	O2	46
H3	77	70-79%	O3	37
H4	66	60-69%	O4	28
H5	56	50-59%	O5	20
H6	46	40-49%	O6	12
H7	37	30-39%	O7	0
H8	0	0-29%	O8	0

The National Framework of Qualifications



Senior Cycle Programmes

Leaving Certificate Established

The Leaving Certificate Established allows students to sit seven subjects for examination.

Four Core Subjects; Maths, English, Gaeilge and Modern Language- French/ German

Option Subjects- Students choose three of the following:

Accounting, Applied Maths, Art, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Construction Studies, Design and Communications Graphics, Economic, History, Home Economics, Geography, Music, Physics, Religion

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

LCVP can be taken as an eighth subject. LCVP can be described as a Leaving Cert with a strong vocational/ enterprise dimension. Assessment is by portfolio and written examination.

Leaving Certificate Applied Programme

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a two year distinct Leaving Certificate available to students who wish to follow a practical programme with a strong practical and vocational emphasis.

Leaving Certificate Applied Programme Assessment

The students' work is assessed over two years for which they gain credits. Practical's, interviews and terminal written papers are among the different forms of assessment used. The students' communication, problem solving and practical skills are also assessed.

Work Experience

Work experience placements allow students to choose a career which suits their needs.

LCA Modes of Assessment						
Satisfactory completion of modules + 90% attendance					62 credits	31%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of completion of 4 key assignments for each module One credit per course module in which there is a final exam Two credits per course module in which there is NO final exam 						
7 Student Tasks @ 10 credits each					70 credits	35%
Vocational Preparation		Vocational Education (x2)				
General Education		Contemporary Issue				
Personal Reflection		Practical Achievement				
Final Examinations					68 credits	34%
English & Communication	Vocational Specialisms (x2)	Languages (x2)	Social Education	Mathematical Applications		
12 credits	12 credits each	6 credits each	10 credits	10 credits		
Total					200 credits	100%

LCA Certification		
Certification awarded at 3 levels		
PASS	120 - 139 credits	60-69%
MERIT	140 - 169 credits	70-84%
DISTINCTION	170 - 200 credits	85-100%

On completing the LCA Programme, students can continue their education by progressing on to Post Leaving Certificate Courses and Third Level Institutes of Technology.

Final Examinations

Area	Credits
English & Communication Oral and written incorporating audio visual	12
Vocational Specialisms (x2) Practical and written - practical briefs issued in advance <i>(see next slide for details)</i>	12 each
Languages (x2) Oral and written incorporating aural	6 each
Social Education Written incorporating audio	10
Mathematical Applications Written - research topic (Q.2 issued in advance)	10
Total	68

Vocational Specialisms

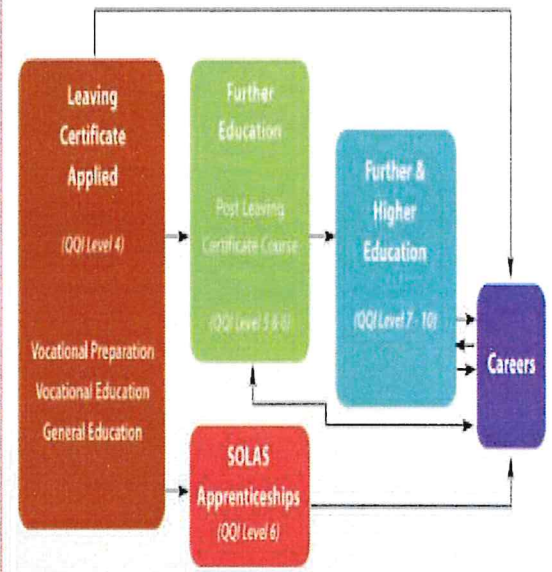
1. Information and Communications Technology
2. Engineering*
3. Technology*
4. Childcare / Community Care*
5. Graphics and Construction Studies*
6. Craft and Design*
7. Agriculture / Horticulture*
8. Hotel Catering and Tourism*
9. Hair and Beauty*
10. Active Leisure Studies*
11. Office Administration and Customer Care*

*Design briefs circulated to schools/centres in Jan

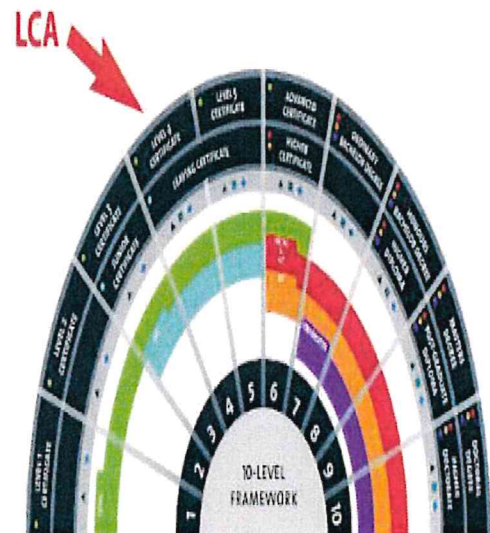
*Practical performance assignment briefs circulated to schools/centres in March



Opening up New Options The Leaving Certificate Applied Route Map



Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)



Leaving Cert Vocational Programme-LCVP

What is the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme?

The LCVP is a Leaving Certificate with a strengthened vocational/enterprise dimension.

What is the purpose and why was it introduced?

The primary goal of the LCVP is to prepare young people for adult life by ensuring that they are educated in the broadest sense, with an ability to cope and thrive in an environment of rapid change. Participants in the programme are encouraged to develop skills and competencies fundamental to both academic and vocational success.

Throughout the programme students are encouraged to:

- Be innovative and enterprising
- Take responsibility for their own learning
- Adapt to changing circumstances
- Evaluate data and devise solutions to problems
- Communicate their thoughts and ideas effectively
- Work with others as part of a team
- Investigate and plan career options
- Use information and communications technologies
- Investigate local businesses and community enterprises
- Learn from their experiences

These skills and qualities are equally relevant to the needs of those preparing for further education, seeking employment or planning to start their own business.

Programme Requirements for students:

- At least **five** Leaving Certificate subjects, one of which must be Irish **plus** the Link Modules
- Two of the above subjects must be selected from one of the designated Vocational Subject Groupings
- Link Modules: Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education (in addition to Five subjects)
- A recognised course in a Modern European Language other than Irish or English:

Vocational Subject Groupings

Two subjects are selected from one of the Vocational Subject Groupings.

Specialist Groupings

- 1 Construction Studies; Engineering; Design and Communication Graphics; Technology - **Any Two**
- 2 Physics **and** Construction Studies **or** Engineering **or** Technology **or** Design & Communication Graphics
- 3 Agricultural Science **and** Construction Studies **or** Engineering **or** Technology **or** Design & Communication Graphics
- 4 Agricultural Science **and** Chemistry **or** Physics **or** Physics/Chemistry
- 5 Home Economics; Agricultural Science; Biology - **Any Two**
- 6 Home Economics **and** Art - Design Option **or** Craft Option
- 7 Accounting; Business; Economics - **Any two**
- 8 Physics **and** Chemistry
- 9 Biology **and** Chemistry **or** Physics **or** Physics/Chemistry
- 10 Biology **and** Agricultural Science
- 11 Art - Design Option **or** Craft Option **and** Design & Communication Graphics

Services Groupings

12 Engineering **or** Technology **or** Construction Studies **or** Design & Communication Graphics **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics

13 Home Economics **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics

14 Agricultural Science **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics

15 Art Design **or** Craftwork Option **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics

16 Music **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics

Assessment of the Link Modules

LCVP students follow the same subject syllabi and are assessed in the same way as their peers in the L.C. For the Link Modules they are assessed by Written Examination (40%) and Portfolio of Coursework (60%).

Certification

LCVP students receive the same certificate as other Leaving Certificate students but their Certificate includes an additional statement of the results of the Link Modules. The Link Modules are recognised for points purposes by the Institutes of Technology and the Universities. The points are allocated as follows;

Grade	Universities and Institutes of Technology Award Revised points 2017 onwards
Distinction	66 points
Merit	46 points
Pass	28 points

Leaving Certificate Established

The Leaving Certificate Established allows students to sit **seven subjects** for examination.

Four Core Subjects; Maths, English, Gaeilge and Modern Language- French/ German

Option Subjects- Students choose three of the following;

Leaving Certificate Subjects;

Science Group	Artistic Group	Technology Group	Social Studies	Business Group
Biology	Art	DCG	Home Economics	Business
Chemistry	Music	Construction Studies	Religious Education	Accounting
Physics			Geography	Economic
Applied Maths			History	

Biology

The leaving cert Biology course is really diverse and covers everything from Cell Biology to the Human Body to Ecology and Plants. There is a lot of learning to be done in this subject and with all the new terms it can sometimes seem like you are learning a new language!

Make sure you know your definitions when studying Biology. They can often make up 25% of the questions on the exam. There are only 22 experiments to be learned and these often make up over 20% of the marks. For each experiment be able to draw a diagram of the set up and know all of the steps and the reasons for taking these steps.

Course Content includes:

Bacteria, Viruses, Fungi & Yeast

Blood & Circulatory System

Breathing System

Cell Metabolism & Enzymes

Food & Food Tests

Genetics, DNA & Evolution

Human Reproduction

Immune system

Musculoskeletal System

Plant Reproduction & Transport

Respiration

The Exam

An exam paper at higher and ordinary level. You are required to keep a record of your practical work (experiments) over the two years of the course and there will be experiment questions on the written paper.

Future Careers with Leaving Certificate Biology

Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Science, Nursing, Physiotherapy

Chemistry

The course includes 28 mandatory practical experiments which must be completed in the lab, as well as a written paper including questions on these experiments and examining the theory and applications of chemistry. It's really important that you learn your definitions and mandatory experiments as these make up a lot of the marks in the exam. Take note: definitions must be learned word for word.

Chemistry Course Content

1. Periodic Table and Atomic Structure
2. Chemical Bonding
3. Stoichiometry, Formulas and Equations
4. Volumetric Analysis
5. Fuels and Heats of Reaction
6. Rates of Reaction
7. Organic Chemistry
8. Chemical Equilibrium
9. Environmental Chemistry: Water
10. Option 1:
11. 1A: Additional Industrial Chemistry
12. 1B: Atmospheric Chemistry
13. Option 2:
14. 2A: Materials
15. 2B: Additional Electrochemistry and the Extraction of Metal

The Exam

The leaving cert exam is three hours in duration. You must answer at least two questions from Section A (experiment section) and a maximum of six questions from Section B.

There are eleven questions in total on the exam paper, each carrying fifty marks.

There is no element of continuous assessment in Chemistry, but experiment copies must be available for inspection by the State Examinations Commission. You will have to memorize the chemical components of a series of prescribed experiments. You will need to present the elements of four such experiments in their exam.

Future Careers with Leaving Certificate Business

Any Science based course; Chemistry, Biology, Environmental Science, Medicine, Pharmacology, or Material Science.

Physics

Leaving Cert Physics is the most mathematical of the sciences, with many exam questions requiring you to solve a problem using learnt formulas.

It is important that you go over these experiments before the exam as Section A examines you on your knowledge of these practicals.

Physics Course Content

Optics / Waves

Mechanics

Heat

Electricity and Magnetism:

Atomic Physics

Option sections

Particle Physics

- A detailed study of subatomic particles

Applied Electricity

- A detailed study of electricity and how motors work

The Exam

100% of your mark goes for a one paper 3 hour exam but you are required to keep a record of your practical work over the two years of the course.

Section A:

Answer 3 out of 4 questions (40 marks per question) based on experimental procedures and use of results.

Section B:

- Answer 5 out of 8 questions (56 marks per question)
- Questions are more broad and theory based

Future Careers with Leaving Certificate Physics

Physics is a requirement for entry into a number of third level courses and is useful for careers including finance, statistics, engineering, physics and computer science.

Applied Maths

Leaving Cert Applied Maths is taken by less than 2000 students every year. Most students who take Applied Maths also take Physics and higher Maths. This helps as there is a big overlap in the material covered in the three courses.

As Applied Maths is not offered in most schools a large number of students will take the subject outside school hours. Aside from the languages Applied Maths has the highest number of A grades every year (approx 28% at higher level). This is not because it's an easy subject but rather that if a student is willing to take on an extra subject in many cases that student will be a high achieving student.

The course essentially covers the maths of the behaviour of objects when placed in various situations, such as being thrown as projectiles, bounced off walls or other objects, immersed in fluids, or swung around on a rope.

What's on the leaving certificate Applied Maths Course?

- Circular Motion and SHM
- Collisions
- Connected Particles
- Differential Equations
- Hydrostatics
- Linear Motion
- Moments of Inertia
- Projectiles
- Relative Velocity
- Statics

What's the leaving cert Applied Maths exam like?

There are 10 questions on the exam paper, each covering the topics below in detail. However, the exam only requires you to complete six questions, so it is not uncommon for teachers to focus on six or seven topics, which makes the course and workload more manageable.

Any tips for doing well in Applied Maths?

The key to doing well in Applied Maths is to keep practicing past exam questions. A lot of students will cut corners on the course and only cover 6 topics. It is advisable to learn a minimum of 7 topics though as there is often at least one very tricky question on the paper each year.