

Donabate Community College



SENIOR CYCLE SUBJECT CHOICE INFORMATION



2022 / 2023



**Welcome to Donabate Community College.
Inside this booklet you will find information on :**

**The Established Leaving Certificate
Subjects at Senior Cycle
The Enhanced Leaving Certificate (LCVP)**

Donabate Community College seeks to promote Excellence. Our aim is to create, with the assistance of parents/guardians, responsible citizens with pride in their community.

The development of the whole person will be based on personal responsibility, interdependence, respect for people and respect for property. Our school will seek to instil integrity, value discipline and punctuality and facilitate the best in academic and non-academic areas. We value our culture, our tradition, be inclusive of religious beliefs and will seek to be a caring and compassionate community where justice and truth will be the central elements.



Message from the Principal

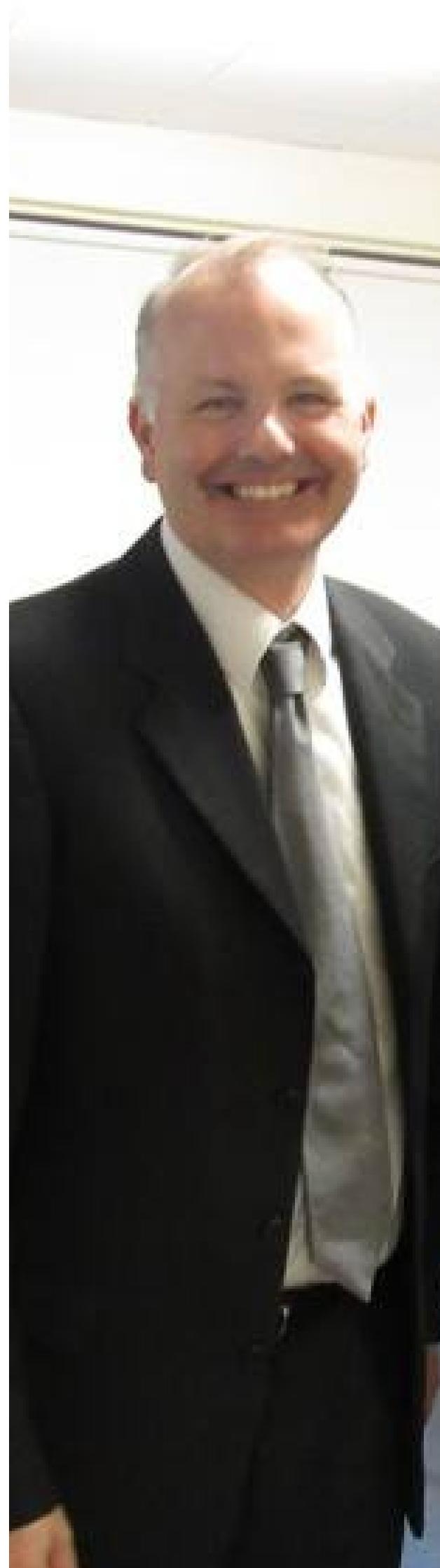
Our school offers a wide range of subjects and we are fortunate to have state of the art facilities that give our students the greatest opportunity to fulfil their potential. Our caring and committed staff work in partnership with the students, Board of Management, Parents and the wider community to make the experience of attending our school as enjoyable and rewarding as possible.

We foster the values of respect, hard work and positive citizenship in our students. Our school aspires to provide a rounded school experience to best meet the needs of each student.

I hope you enjoy learning more about our school's Senior Cycle programmes.

Regards,

Anthony Creevey





Guidance Service in DCC

Guidance Counsellors empower students to make decisions, solve problems, change behaviour and seek to help students resolve Personal, Educational and Career issues in their lives.

Guidance Councillors in DCC undertake the following tasks:

- Personal Counselling - Guidance Counsellors in Donabate Community College provide personal counselling service as well as group or class work to promote interpersonal communication skills, decision making, self-awareness and the ability to plan.
- Educational Guidance - They assist in choice of courses, subject and levels decision. This includes supporting students with their learning, study skills and examination techniques.
- Career Guidance - They assist decision making in relation to education and training courses, employment opportunities, job search skills work and other life roles.



The Established Leaving Certificate

The Leaving Certificate is a strict academic programme which commences in 5th year.

It is a two year programme. Leaving Certificate students need to be responsible for their own individual class work and commit themselves to a minimum of 2 to 3 hours daily study.

In the CAO system, your highest 6 grades will be used to calculate your points for entry purposes to courses offered in all Higher Education Institutes.

The Guidance Counsellor will be available to help all students with career choices and to liaise with parents.

Choosing Subjects for the Leaving Certificate

As a student entering Senior Cycle, you are coming to a cross roads in your life.

You need to make decisions and begin to plan your future. The first decision you will make is to choose subjects that you will study for the Leaving Certificate.

In Donabate Community College, all students take seven subjects for the Leaving Certificate.

The core (mandatory) subjects are:

- English
- Irish
- Maths

You then choose FOUR other subjects from the options provided.



Some tips...

When you are deciding which subjects to take, remember that this decision will have long term consequences on what careers are open to you.

Dropping Science subjects or a modern foreign language will have an effect on the range of careers open to you at a later stage.

If you are unsure of what career area you wish to pursue, a good option may be to keep all options open by taking a Science subject, a Business subject and a Foreign language from their four option subjects.

A final point to note is that a pass in Ordinary Level Maths is essential to virtually all College courses.

There is no such thing as an easy subject for the Leaving Cert. Hard work over the next two years you will achieve your potential in your chosen subjects.

Your subject choices needs to be very carefully made to ensure you are not ruling yourself out of a 3rd Level course you might be interested in later.

Visit www.qualifax.ie for information on subject requirements for all college courses.

Remember you are the person who will be studying these subjects and who will be taking the Leaving Cert -

It is your responsibility to make sure that the information you have is accurate and up to date.

Ask your teachers, parents and our Guidance Counsellors for help if you need it.

Senior Cycle Option Subjects

The following pages contain brief summaries of the subjects that we offer in DCC. If you would like a more in depth explanation of the course structure at senior cycle, we recommend you visit ncca.ie for the subject curriculum or speak to a senior cycle teacher in our school.

For ease of use, we have categorised subjects into 5 groups:

- **Modern foreign languages**

- French

- Spanish

- **Business subjects**

- Accounting

- Business

- Economics

- **Humanities subjects**

- History

- Geography

- **Practical subjects**

- Art

- Home Economics

- Music

- Science subjects

- Construction

- Engineering

- DCG

- Technology

- **Science Subjects**

- Agricultural Science

- Biology

- Chemistry

- Physics

Modern Foreign Languages

Most students choose to study a Foreign language as it ensures that they don't rule out any college where a third language is an entry requirement.

If you want to keep all your options open stick with at least one additional language. A third language is required for entry to National University of Ireland colleges for most degree programmes in Arts, Human Sciences, Social Science, Medicine and Health Sciences and some other degrees.

Air Corps and Naval Service require a third Language.

Check out the minimum entry requirements of individual courses on qualifax.ie

French

We recommend that only students who have been studying French to Junior Certificate take the subject to Leaving Certificate.

French for the Leaving Certificate covers the four skills of:

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking
- Listening

An interest in language and travel is a decided advantage for this subject and as far as possible, class will be conducted through French. The exam demands a sound grasp of French grammar, a broad vocabulary and an ability to express oneself clearly and accurately.

There is an oral assessment worth 25%, a listening comprehension worth 20% and a written paper worth 55%.'

The syllabus also puts an emphasis on French civilisation and students are expected to have a broad knowledge of French political, educational and cultural life. In class, DVD's, magazines and newspapers are used extensively to expose students to a wide range of authentic material.

Students are encouraged to look for penpals in France and if possible to go on an exchange to France.



A photograph of the Spanish flag waving in front of a grand, ornate building with many windows and arches. The flag is the central focus, with its three horizontal stripes of red, yellow, and red, and the national coat of arms in the center. The building behind it is made of light-colored stone and has a classical architectural style.

Spanish

We recommend that only students who have been studying Spanish to Junior Certificate take the subject to Leaving Certificate.

The four skills examined in Leaving Certificate Spanish are:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Writing
- Reading

As far as possible the classes are conducted through Spanish and students are encouraged to spend some time in Spain if possible to improve their language skills.

A thorough knowledge of Spanish grammar is required, as is a broad range of vocabulary.

There is an oral exam worth 25%, a listening comprehension worth 20% and a written paper worth 55%.

In the written paper, questions are asked in both English and Spanish.

- Business Subjects -

These subjects teach the skills and knowledge needed to understand how business works.





Accounting

Leaving Certificate accounting provides students with the knowledge, understanding and skills in accounting and financial management necessary for managing personal and basic company accounts. The learning experiences in accounting develop students' organisational, logical thinking, planning and problem-solving skills for their future life, work and study. It also develops their numeracy skills within the context of business and enterprise.

Why Study Accounting?

While not required specifically for studying any third level college course, it is recommended if Accountancy is the career path you want to follow. Accounting teaches students the bookkeeping side of business but delves deeper, teaching you to analyse and interpret the figures.

What kind of Student would Accounting suit?

Commonly seen as the mathematical side of business, accounting attracts the more numerate student. While the Junior Certificate Business Studies Course provides a foundation for this course, it is not essential and it is possible to take accountancy up at senior cycle. An organised student who likes order will be particularly suited to this course.

Business

Leaving Certificate business creates an awareness of the importance of business activity and develops a positive and ethical attitude towards enterprise. Business provides students with a learning foundation for a wide range of careers in business, marketing, law, enterprise and management.

Why Study Business?

Business is not specifically required for entry into any third level course but it would certainly be beneficial for candidates who might be interested in courses or careers in the area of finance, enterprise, law and communications.

What kind of student would Business suit?

Business will suit a candidate who is interested in current affairs and stays alert to what is happening in the general business world. This subject suits someone who has an organised mind and likes to answer questions in bullet points, rather than in long essay format.





Economics

Leaving Certificate Economics provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary for understanding how the Irish and global economy functions. The learning experiences in Economics develop students' critical thinking, problem solving, decision-making and numeracy skills.

Why Study Economics?

Economics deals with the real world business obstacles such as demand and supply, production and consumption, money and banking as well as economic policies, problems and conflicts. With inflation and international trade and payments constantly making headlines, economics requires its students to keep track of real world situations.

What kind of student might Economics suit?

Economics would suit anyone considering a future career in any area of business, journalism, communications or finance. Students who take an interest in politics, current affairs, or psychology. This subject is suited to students who are willing to work hard and caters for all abilities. It is not necessary to have studied business at Junior Certificate to study Economics but it would be helpful. Ideally, students should have a general interest in how the economy works and be interested in current affairs.



- Humanities Subjects -

These subjects explore the ways in which humans live and communicate in the world.

Human life is examined by looking at our past, our present and into our future. These subjects help people to express themselves clearly and develop their reasoning ability.

History

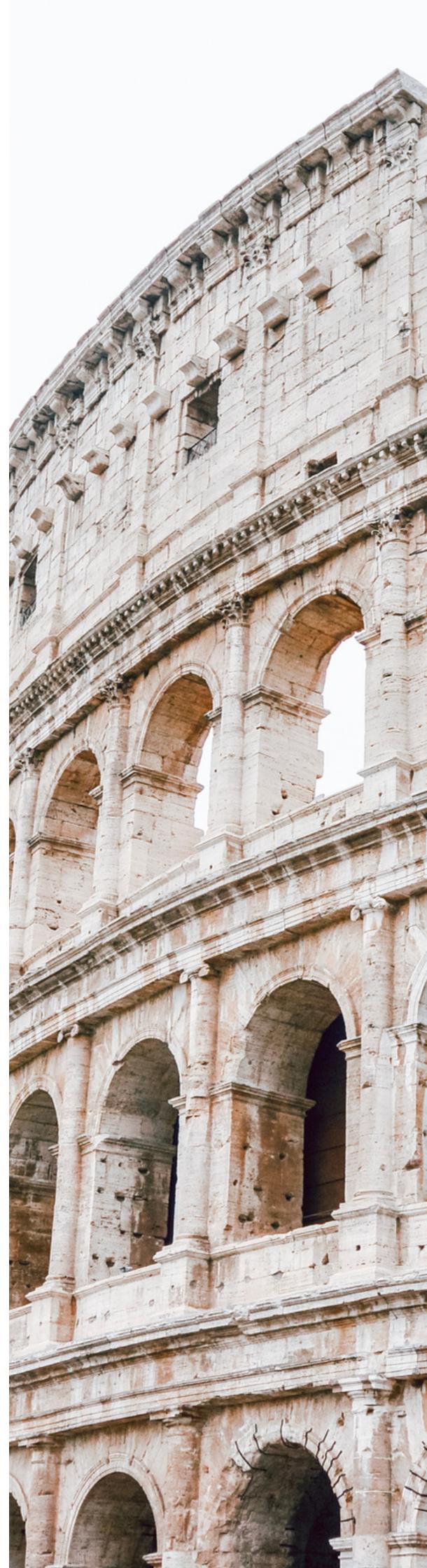
History aims to record and analyse things which have happened in the past, with an emphasis on both how and why events occurred.

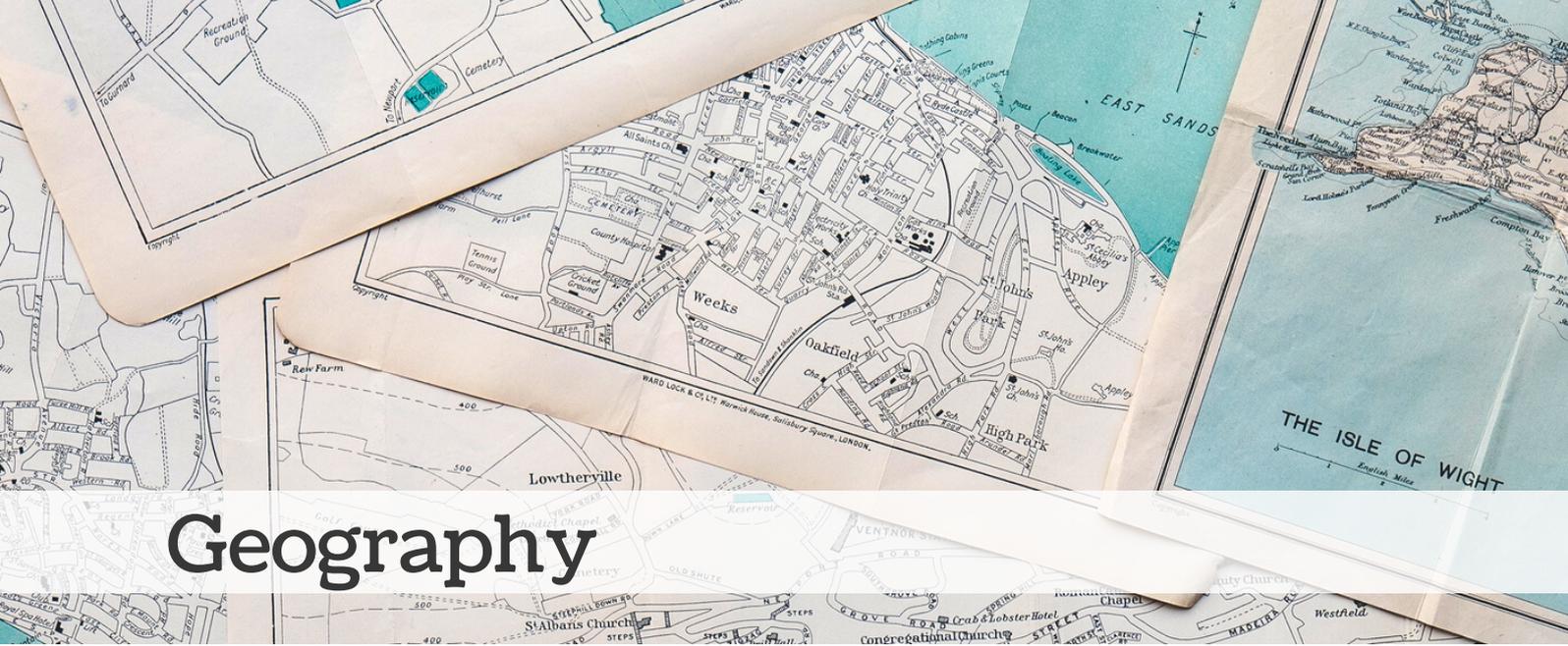
Why study History?

History brings students into contact with human experiences that are often very different from their own and fosters their developing understanding of the human condition and human motivation. Through its focus on the evaluation of evidence, it contributes significantly to the development of students' skills of critical thinking. Through its focus on research, it allows students the opportunity to develop their skills of independent learning. History is often studied out of personal interest, but also develops skills which are of life-long importance.

What kind of student might History suit?

An interest in the subject is vital. A good knowledge of English, an ability to write and an interest in current affairs is important.





Geography is the study of the forces that create and change our landscape. It also involves study of the location and distribution of the inhabitants of the earth's landscape. By this definition it is a dynamic and demanding course which examines in detail those topics covered for the Junior Cert.

Geography is the study of people, their environment, and the interaction between the two. The course follows from Junior Cert Geography, and covers very similar topics (such as rocks, soils, oceans, population movements, map-reading, and economic activities) in a lot more detail. There are a large number of optional sections on the course, allowing students to focus on the sections of the course which they like.

What kind of student might Geography suit?

Geography at Leaving Cert will suit students considering further study in areas such as geography, economics, environmental science, or politics.



- Practical Subjects -

These subjects are hands-on.
They may involve designing, making or
performing.

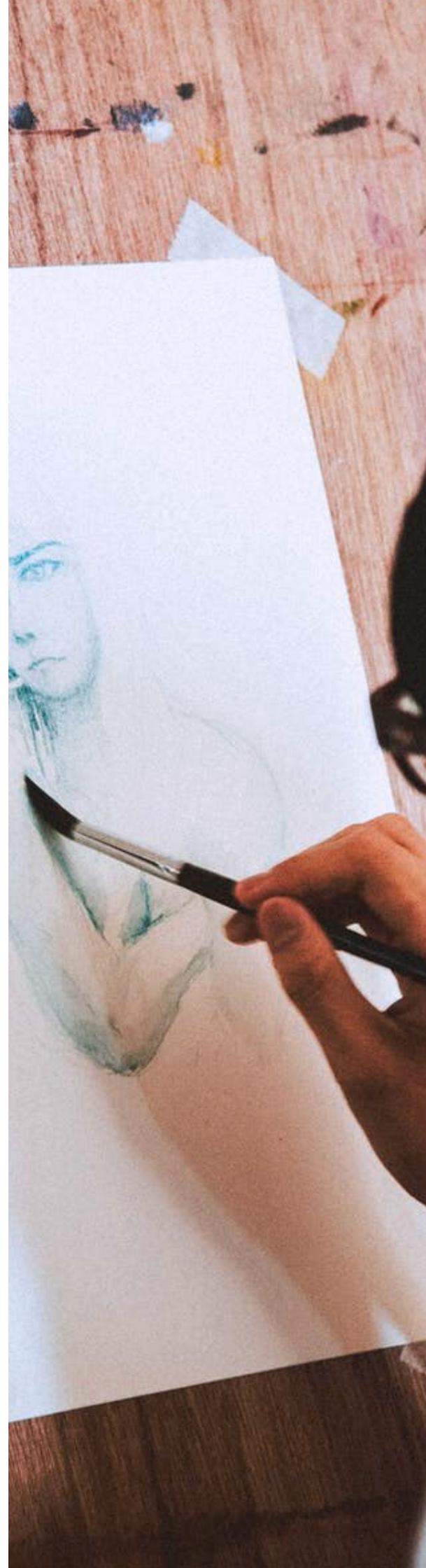
Art

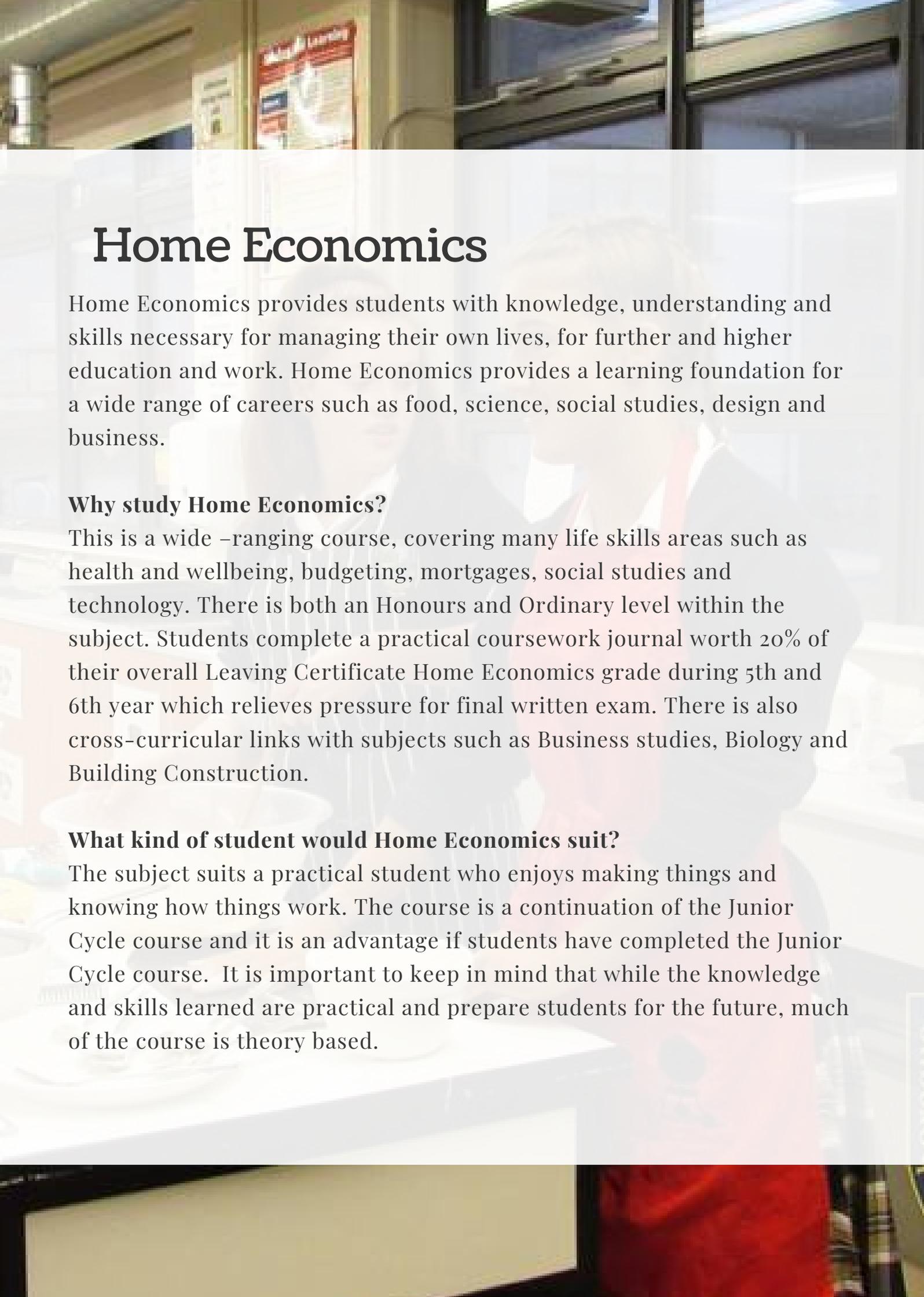
The Art course for Leaving Cert is about developing the student's ability in a range of artistic fields and disciplines. You use a number of media, from the fine arts such as sculpture, drawing, and painting, to print making, ceramics and calligraphy. Students produce a coursework sketchbook and two finished pieces as well as an Art history paper worth 40%.

Why Study Art?

Art allows students to be creative and explore their desire for self-expression and develop an appreciation for artistic work of others.

- **What kind of Student would Art suit?**
- Students who have shown an aptitude for art, such as by getting high grades in Junior Cert Art.
- Students who enjoy expressing themselves through art and like to sketch and doodle.
- Students who are prepared to work hard at developing their artistic talent.





Home Economics

Home Economics provides students with knowledge, understanding and skills necessary for managing their own lives, for further and higher education and work. Home Economics provides a learning foundation for a wide range of careers such as food, science, social studies, design and business.

Why study Home Economics?

This is a wide –ranging course, covering many life skills areas such as health and wellbeing, budgeting, mortgages, social studies and technology. There is both an Honours and Ordinary level within the subject. Students complete a practical coursework journal worth 20% of their overall Leaving Certificate Home Economics grade during 5th and 6th year which relieves pressure for final written exam. There is also cross-curricular links with subjects such as Business studies, Biology and Building Construction.

What kind of student would Home Economics suit?

The subject suits a practical student who enjoys making things and knowing how things work. The course is a continuation of the Junior Cycle course and it is an advantage if students have completed the Junior Cycle course. It is important to keep in mind that while the knowledge and skills learned are practical and prepare students for the future, much of the course is theory based.



Music

Leaving Certificate Music involves a series of interrelated musical activities within each of the three core areas of musical experience - performing, composing and listening.

Why Study Music?

Students can get up to 50% of the total marks in the musical activity that best suits their talent before they even sit the written paper. In music you can develop your talent and knowledge in this area and continue to your musical studies in a wide range of colleges.

What kind of student would music suit?

Students who have shown an aptitude for music and are keen to develop and practise their skills more.

Students who have an ability to read music and be competent in singing or playing an instrument.

Anyone considering a career in a creative discipline such as singing, playing in a band, music production and performance technology and management.

Recommendations / Tips

Because of the practical nature of this subject, students and / or parents should discuss their interest with the Music department before choosing it as a Leaving Certificate subject.



Construction Studies

Leaving Certificate Construction Studies provides students in the senior cycle of post-primary education with an introduction to the knowledge and skills involved in construction technology and construction materials and processes.

Why Study Construction Studies?

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

What kind of Student would Construction Studies suit?

This subject is 'hands-on' and involves working with tools and machinery on physical things like wood, metals and plastic. It also involves designing, planning and building things.

It is recommended that a student taking Leaving Certificate Construction Studies has a general interest in buildings and the built environment. Each student should have an aptitude for and an interest in design and practical work.



Engineering

Our school has some of the best Engineering and Technology facilities any student or teacher could ask for.

Along with having the latest and newest machinery the Engineering room is also equipped with an Interactive board, CNC machines and spacious design.

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.

Why Study Engineering?

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 would Engineering suit?

Students should have an aptitude for and an interest in design and practical work. This subject follows on from Junior Cert metalwork.

A close-up photograph of a laptop. The screen shows a code editor with CSS code. The code includes properties like 'font-size: 13px;', 'list-style: none;', 'margin: 0 0 0 -0.8125em;', 'padding-left: 0;', 'z-index: 99999;', 'text-align: right;', and 'display: inline-block;', 'text-align: left;'. The keyboard is visible in the foreground, and the background is blurred.

DCG (Design & Communications Graphics)

This subject develops students' comprehension ability, and problem solving and creative thinking skills are developed through the analysis and solution of both 2 and 3-dimensional graphics. Graphics and design are communicated using freehand sketching skills, traditional draughting equipment and CAD.

Why Study Design and Communications Graphics?

DCG helps to further students' cognitive and practical skills with modules like graphic communication, problem solving, spatial visualisation, design capabilities, computer graphics and much more.

What kind of student would DCG suit?

This subject would best suit students who have taken Tech Graphics to Junior Cert level. A keen interest in further studies in practical areas of engineering and construction, or in apprenticeships which include the study of technical drawings would also be beneficial.

Free-hand sketching is a main component of the core topics. Therefore, Junior Cert Art, Materials Technology or Wood Technology would serve as an advantage in this area. A basic knowledge of ICT skills is also beneficial.



Technology

Leaving Certificate technology provides students with the knowledge and skills associated with technology education. Students apply their knowledge and skills creatively in a design-based approach to solving everyday technological problems, mindful of the impact on natural resources and on the environment.

Why Study Technology?

Given the current accelerated advances in technology, this is a very cutting edge subject. This subject aims to boost a student's ability to apply knowledge and skills to evaluate technology. Technology will help you to solve many of the technological problems you may experience in everyday life. This subject teaches you to think about a problem and then use your knowledge and skills to design a solution to that problem.

What kind of Student would Technology suit?

Students do not need to have taken Technology at Junior Cert to do this course. It would however be an advantage if students had taken one of Tech Drawing, Wood Technology or Technology, as this subject consolidates, extends and refines knowledge, skills and techniques acquired at Junior Cert. level in these subjects.



- Science Subjects -

These subjects demonstrate how to explore nature using carefully planned methods, and teach the basic methods and findings of scientific investigation.

Agricultural Science

Agricultural science is the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture. Plants and animal types associated with agriculture are studied, and investigations are undertaken into such aspects as soil, ecology, plant and animal physiology, farm crops, farming practices, genetics and microbiology.

Why Study Agricultural Science?

Agricultural Science remains a very popular subject among students in Ireland and reflects our agricultural background. This subject proves popular among students who are planning to study Veterinary Science, Science or Medicine in college.

What kind of Student would Agricultural Science suit?

Some experience of farming would be desirable.





Biology

Biology is the study of life. Through the study of biology students employ the processes of science to explore the diversity of life and the inter-relationships between organisms and their environment. They become more aware of the use of living organisms and their products to enhance human health and the environment.

Why Study Biology?

Biology is a popular subject and is the study of life. It requires a lot of memory work so is a good choice for students with attention to detail and excellent memory work. Many courses require at least one science subject and some even require two (see third level entry requirements). Therefore, it is a good idea to have at least one science subject to keep your options open. Those considering medicine, nursing and related courses will find that this subject will be of huge benefit in their studies.

What kind of student would Biology suit?

Students who enjoyed science for Junior Cert might wish to consider studying biology at Senior Cycle. The course is a continuation of what was studied at Junior Cycle but in more detail.



Chemistry

Chemistry exists everywhere, not just in laboratories, but in every living thing on land and sea and in our bodies. If you enjoyed Junior Cert Science and have done well in it, and in Maths, you should be a good candidate for Leaving Cert Chemistry.

Why Study Chemistry?

Chemistry is considered most useful for careers in Pharmacy, Sustainability, Medicine, Engineering, General Sciences and Biotechnology.

What kind of student would Chemistry suit?

If you enjoyed Junior Cert Science and you have done well in this and in Maths, you should be a good candidate for Leaving Cert Chemistry. Students considering a career in any scientific discipline, such as chemistry, biology, environmental science, medicine, pharmacology, or material science.

Recommendations/Tips:

It is recommended that a student undertaking the chemistry course has a good understanding of Junior Cert Science and Maths at Higher level.

Physics

Physics describes the laws and forces that govern natural phenomena. The subject aims to enhance students ability to think logically, to observe, to understand scientific method and to communicate effectively.

Why Study Physics?

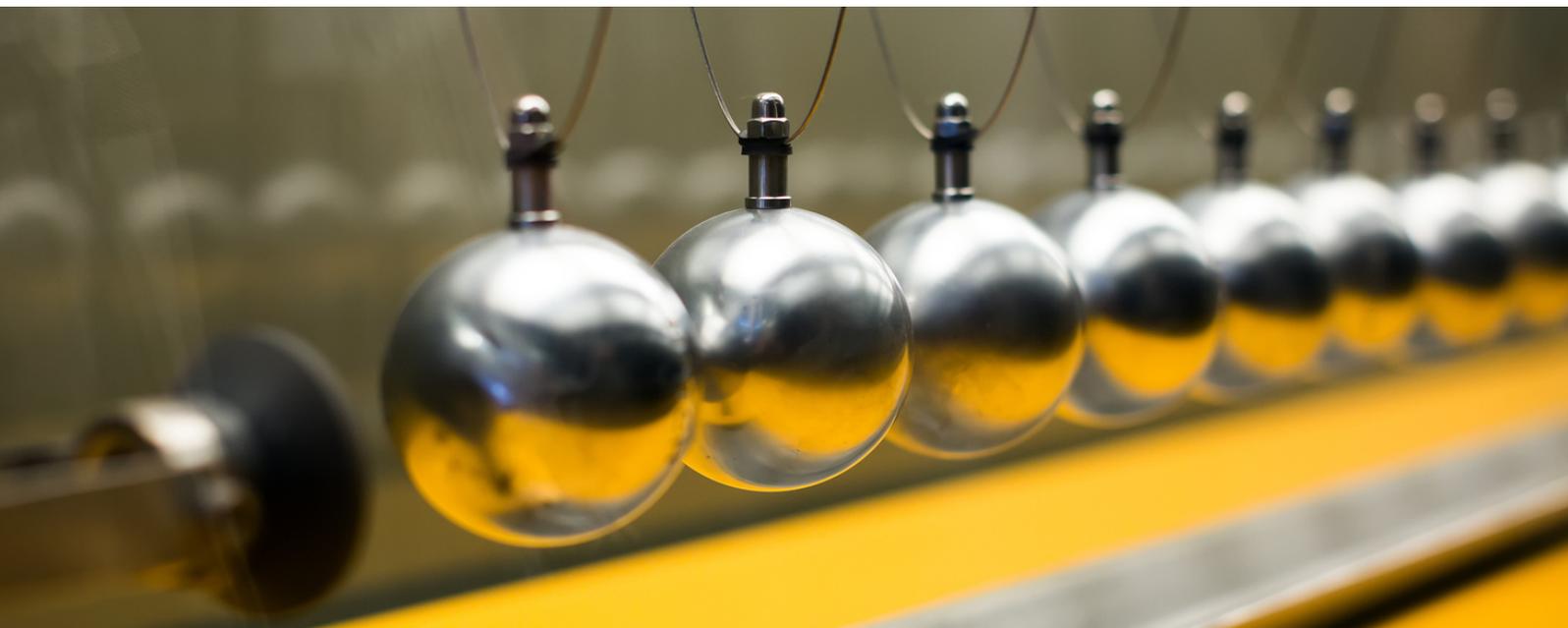
Physics teaches students to think logically and enables them to express their thoughts in a concise manner.

What kind of student would Physics suit?

Students who are interested in the following careers would be advised to study Physics: Electrician, Optician, Doctor, Dentist, Engineer, Computer Technician and Programmer.

Recommendations/Tips:

While there is an element of maths in the physics course, honours maths is not a requirement to do honours physics. Parts of the Physics course overlap with woodwork and construction. Pupils who will gain the most from studying physics are those who have an interest in science at Junior Cert level and those who enjoy learning about how things work.



Agricultural Science

Agricultural science is the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture. Plants and animal types associated with agriculture are studied, and investigations are undertaken into such aspects as soil, ecology, plant and animal physiology, farm crops, farming practices, genetics and microbiology.

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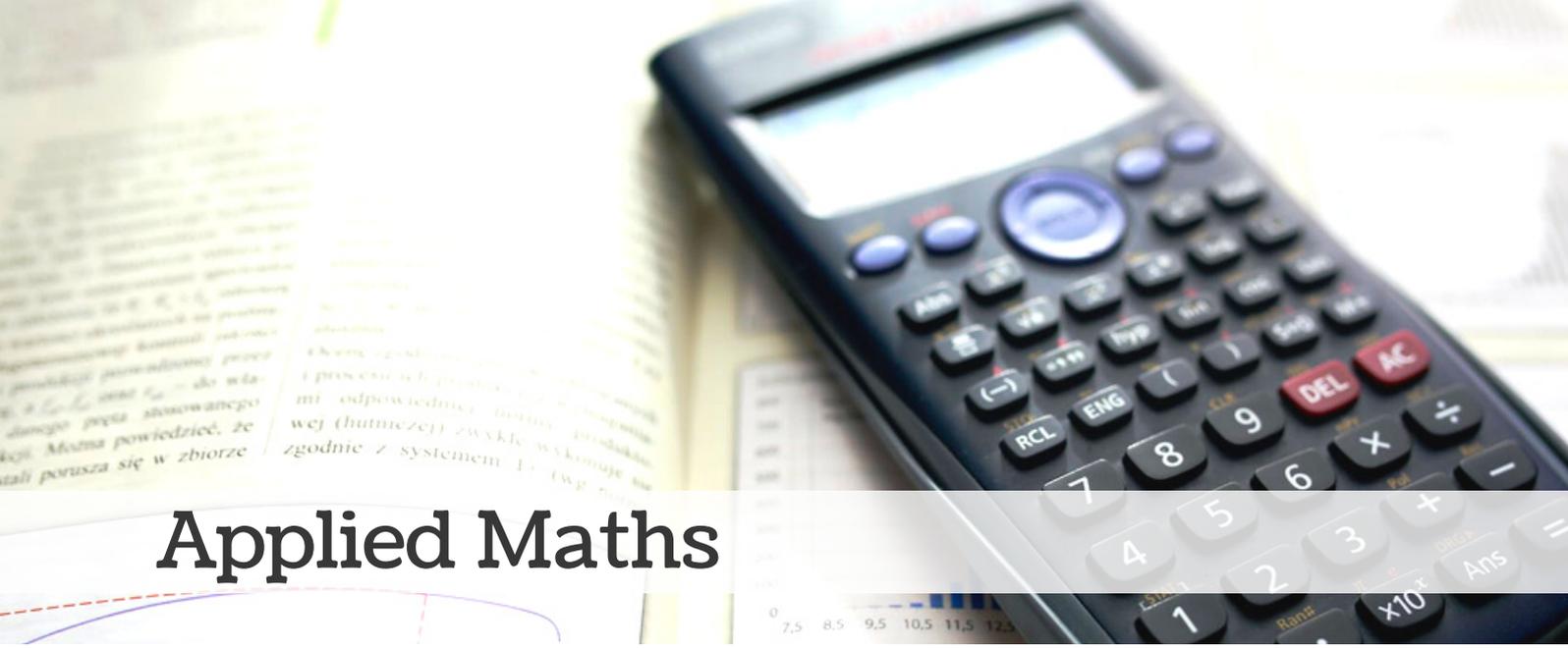
The examination for this subject is split into two parts as follows:

1. The Practical Section (Project) - 25%
2. Written exam - 75%

What kind of Student would Agricultural Science suit?

Some experience of farming would be desirable.





Applied Maths

Applied Maths is the study of the practical applications of mathematics to the real world and physical problems. It is typically associated with engineering and physics, but also finds use in economics, finance, business, environmental studies, and even chemistry and medicine.

Why Study Applied Maths?

If you are getting A or B grades in Maths and Physics, you should be capable of getting similar grades in Applied Maths, thus enabling you to increase your points in the Leaving Cert. There is overlap between some parts of the Leaving Cert Physics course and the Applied Maths course. It will also give you a better understanding of some parts of the Honours Maths course – especially Trigonometry, Calculus (Differentiation and Integration) and Vectors.

What kind of student might Applied Maths suit?

This subject comes highly recommended for students considering a career in any area of Engineering, Science, Information Technology, Business, Finance, Architecture or Education. Students who are studying Leaving Cert higher level Maths. This course also helps students studying physics, due to some overlap in the course content.



The Enhanced Leaving Certificate

LCVP - Leaving Certificate Vocational Preparation

This is a programme that is essentially the 'traditional' Established Leaving Certificate enhanced with two Link Modules. These Link Modules are designed to allow the student to have experiences and develop skills sets which will make them ready for Third Level education and the adult world of work.

LCVP aims to produce students at Leaving Certificate level who have reflected on their future and have a clear idea of their career paths and the best way of achieving their educational and career goals.



LCVP

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme is a two-year optional Education Programme designed to give a strong vocational dimension to the Leaving Certificate.

What are the Link Modules?

The Link Modules are:

- The World of Work
- Enterprise Education

Many of the lessons and activities, such as visiting a manufacturing plant or having a local business person talk to the class, are designed to stimulate your appreciation of entrepreneurship and career focus.

How do LCVP Link Modules fit into the Leaving Certificate Timetable?

The Link Modules replace P.E. or Study Periods on your timetable.



Goal setting, career investigation and future planning are challenges every Leaving Certificate candidate will have to tackle in order to be ready to leave secondary school with confidence. By taking LCVP, students get the chance to do these prepare for the future in school time under the guidance of experienced teachers and have the chance to convert their efforts into Leaving Certificate Points.

LCVP Portfolio

Over the two years of LCVP, you will prepare a Portfolio including Curriculum Vitae, a Career Investigation, an Enterprise/Action Plan, a Summary Report plus 2 other items, for example, a popular choice amongst our students is a recorded interview.

Work Placement

You will organise one 3-day work placement during a holiday period and must have it completed before starting back to school in 6th year.

What kind of Student would the Link Modules suit?

This is a practical subject/programme that suits practical students. It is a real preparation for the world of work. The bulk of marks go for the portfolio which is done over the 2-years.

What subjects will an LCVP student study?

A typical LCVP student studies 7 subjects plus link modules

English, Irish, Maths PLUS a modern European Language (Mandatory) PLUS Link Modules PLUS two other subjects. Your option subjects must fall into one of the 16 Subject Groupings below

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

It is strongly advised to choose your subjects for Leaving Certificate according to your interests and abilities.

Then, if your subject choices fall into any ONE of the Vocational Subject Groupings above it is worth considering LCVP.

