



**A guide to your opportunities in Senior Cycle
St Mary's CBS Portlaoise**

Leaving Certificate Year Class 2021



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, Ms Catriona Phelan, Ms Mary MacEntee

(You will find our offices on the Library corridor. Ms MacEntee and Ms Phelan share an office RF 33, while Ms Brennan works in RF 34.)

Transition Year Coordinators: -

Ms L Gillson, Ms E O'Connell

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

Agriculture science

Humanities

Spanish

French

History

Business Subjects

Business Studies

Accounting

LCVP Link Modules (dependent on subjects chosen)

Practical subjects

Construction studies

Design Communications

& Graphics (DCG)

Engineering

Arts / Creative

Art

Music

Social Subjects

PE (n-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

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. To access this information, follow these directions:

St Mary's CBS Home Page



Students



Subjects



Scroll down to subject brochures

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 or your chosen course /career
- Academic entrance requirements e.g. Ponds 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) Athlone H6/O3 Lab. Sci.
21. Vet Nurse (7) Dundalk H5 Biology or Ag. Sci.
22. Vet Nurse (7) 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
28. Engineering NUIG Lab. Sci. or Ag. Sci.
29. Engineering UCD Lab. Sci. 31. Nursing H7/O6 Lab. Sci. or Ag. Sci

TCD UCD NUIG MUIM UL UCC DCU TU Dublin Carlow IT

LEAVING CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME (LCVP)

This is a programme offered to Fifth Years and Leaving Certificate students, depending on subject choice.

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, one of which must be a Modern Foreign Language, and two Link Modules.

Students taking the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme will follow two Link Modules over the course of the two years.

- **Link Module I** - Preparation for the World of Work Students will research and investigate local employment opportunities, develop job seeking skills such as letter writing, CV presentation, interview techniques; gain valuable practical experience of the world of work; interview and work shadow a person in a career area that interests them.
- **Link Module II** - Enterprise Education Students will be involved in organising visits to local business and community enterprises; meet and interview enterprising people on site and in the classroom; plan and undertake interesting activities that will build self-confidence, creativity, initiative and develop teamwork, communication and computer skills.

Qualifying Subjects

- Agricultural Science and Construction Studies or Engineering or Technology or Design & Communication Graphics
- Agricultural Science and Chemistry or Physics or Physics/Chemistry ☒ Home Economics; Agricultural Science; Biology - Any Two
- Home Economics and Art - Design Option or Craft Option
- Accounting; Business; Economics - Any two ☒
- Physics and Chemistry ☒ Biology and Chemistry or Physics or Physics/Chemistry
- Biology and Agricultural Science
- Art - Design Option or Craft Option and Design & Communication Graphics

- Engineering or Technology or Construction Studies or Design & Communication Graphics and Accounting or Business or Economics
- Home Economics and Accounting or Business or Economics
- Agricultural Science and Accounting or Business or Economics
- Art Design or Craftwork Option and Accounting or Business or Economics
- Music and Accounting or Business or Economics

Students Study:

- Preparation for the world of work including CV Presentation, Interview Techniques, Career Investigation, Work Experience. •
- Enterprise Education—Visit local business and Community Organisations.

Assessment is by written examination (40%) and by Portfolio of coursework (60%).

Students can use the LCVP as one of their six subjects when calculating points for college.

Distinction 66 Points

Merit 46 Points

Pass 28 Points

Over 15,600 students participate each year and interestingly over 80 percent of students use their LCVP as their best sixth subjects for CAO points.

Questions to help you make your decision



→ What are your best/favourite subjects?

→ What subjects do you least like?

Tick the areas of interest to you;

Manual work ____ Outdoor work ____ Researching information ____
Desk work ____ Computer work ____ Helping others ____ Working alone ____
Doing experiments ____ Creative work ____ Using good writing skills ____
Speaking in public ____ Physically active ____ Design indoor/outdoor ____
Teaching ____ Sport related ____ Using your hands or tools ____
Organising people/activities/information ____ Leading others ____
Owning a business ____ Medical related ____ Data ____ Science related ____

Would you like to:

Get a job straight from secondary school _____

Do a 1- or 2-year PLC (Post Leaving Cert Course) _____

Go to college and complete a degree or further _____

→ What job roles are you interested in?

→ How would you describe your personality? E.g. patient, motivated to work on goals...

→ What jobs / household chores are you good at – or part-time work?

→ What careers have you already researched to find out about?

→ What motivates you to work / study?

→ If you have completed a careers interest assessment, what were the results? E.g Probe
