



Cabinteely Community School

Senior Cycle Subject Options



Studying for the Traditional Leaving Certificate

Important Information for Students & Parents/Guardians

- All students study the core subjects of English, Maths and Gaeilge. Students with exemptions from the study of Gaeilge in the Junior Cycle or who arrive newly in Ireland are eligible, if they choose, to do learning support classes in place of Gaeilge.
- Students choose four other option subjects for the terminal exam. These are detailed on page 4 of this booklet.
- Students also undertake study in the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP), which provides an additional source of points for the Central Applications Office (CAO) points system.
- The LCVP requires students to complete a portfolio containing their cvs, career plans and investigations and to do an exam which takes place in May of 6th Year. It is a very worthwhile course of study which helps students decide what they would like to do after school.
- The CAO is the body which processes applications for Higher Education courses such as universities. Students who wish to go to universities such as UCD will apply for their courses through the CAO process which begins in 6th Year. Student count their best SIX exam results. Students are timetabled for seven subjects plus LCVP as a safety net.
- Students can apply for zPost Leaving Certificate courses in Further Education Colleges, eg, Bray College of Further Education or Sallynoggin College of Further Education by applying directly to the colleges also in 6th Year.
- Students can also apply for apprenticeships prior to leaving school.
- Our Guidance Counsellors will meet every student to go through their plans for education after school.
- Choosing subjects well is hugely important to success in the Leaving Certificate.
- We would encourage students to consider the following questions before making final decisions on subjects:

A. What are my skills and aptitudes?

B. Do I like this subject?/Am I interested in it?

C. *Will this help my future career?*

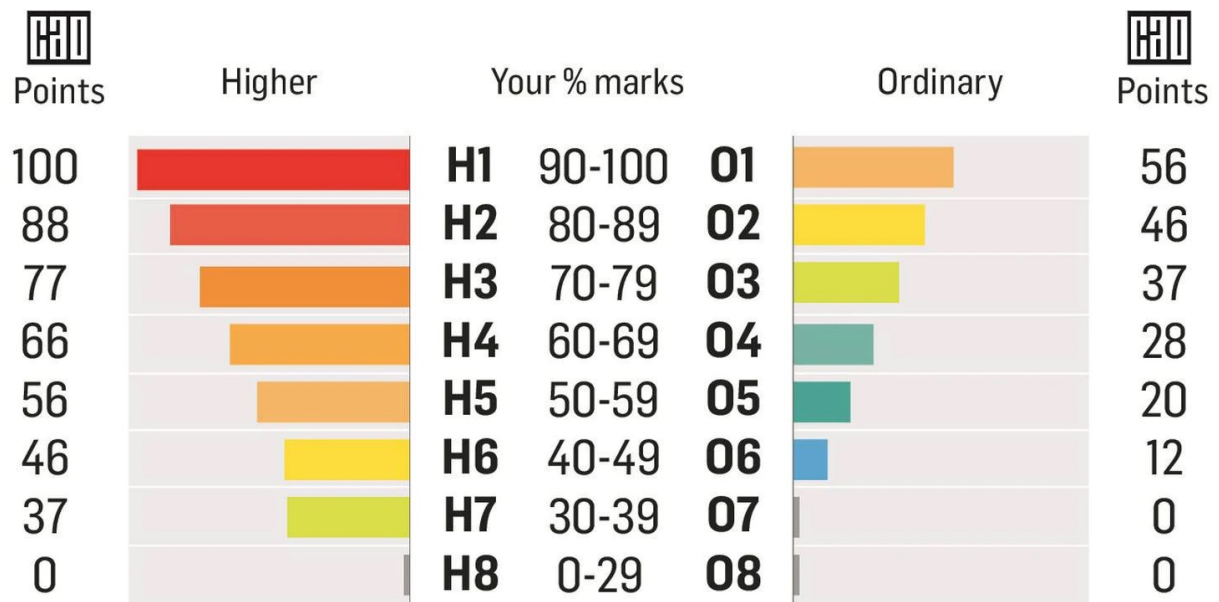
D. *Is the subject ESSENTIAL or DESIRABLE for a certain career?*

E. *Do I need this subject for my college course?*

F. *Am I prepared to work hard at this subject?*

- Avoid making decisions based on what friends are doing, whether you like the teacher, because it's easy or because it's what females/males mostly do.
- Remember - at Leaving Certificate level, a subject is only easy if you're good at it.
- Note - Education also happens outside the classroom so get involved in student leadership and in extra-curricular activities.

The Grading System for the Leaving Cert Exam



+25 Bonus points for H1-H6 maths

LCVP link modules Distinction 66 Merit 46 Pass 28

QQI Framework

The QQI framework is a structure of levels, designed to bring an increased clarity to the meaning of each type of qualification, allowing qualifications to be compared easily. The framework comprises of TEN levels.



Students who complete the Junior Cert are at Level 3. The LCA Course will see a student at Level 4 and taking subjects at Higher Level in the traditional Leaving Cert will be at Level 5.

Courses in Post Leaving Cert colleges begin with basic courses at Level 4. Most PLC students do Level 5 or 6 courses in PLC Colleges.

At University, courses start at Level 7 and go right up to a doctorate at Level 10.

Steps to Choosing Leaving Certificate Options in Cabinteely CS

1. Complete the Subject Options Form 1 on time - this gives us a sense of how many students want to take each subject. We will then create the Subject Options Form 2 based on this information. If there is not sufficient interest in a particular subject, we may not form a class and this subject will not appear on the second form. If there is a lot of interest in a subject, this subject may appear twice on the form as we may form two class groups for it.
2. Complete Subject Options Form 2 as quickly as possible. If you are late returning the form you may miss out on a place in class. There are limits on the number of students permitted in different subjects. You will receive a communication from the school confirming your subject options.
3. If you do not get all of the subjects you want, let your year head know and you will be placed on a waiting list for that subject. If a place becomes available in the class, you will be offered a place based on your place in the waiting list.
4. If you change your mind at any stage and want to choose a different subject, inform your year head. You may miss out on a place in a particular subject, however.
5. Download the school app on your phone so that you receive communications from the school about subject options. If you do not have the app, you may miss out on communication and may miss getting your subject preferences.



Option Subjects for the Leaving Certificate

Option subjects are based around the following themes:

- ▶ STEM - (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)
- ▶ Arts & Humanities
- ▶ Social Language and Enterprise

The subjects on offer in Cabinteely Community School in each area are as follows:



- Biology
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Leaving Certificate Physical Education
- Engineering
- Construction
- Design Communication Graphics



- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music

Social, Language & Enterprise

- Modern Foreign Languages - French, Spanish
- Home Economics
- Business

Subject Options in the World of STEM

1. Biology



Through the study of Biology students explore the diversity of life and the inter-relationships between organisms and their environment.

Topics include:

•the study of plants and animals, molecular biology, biotechnology

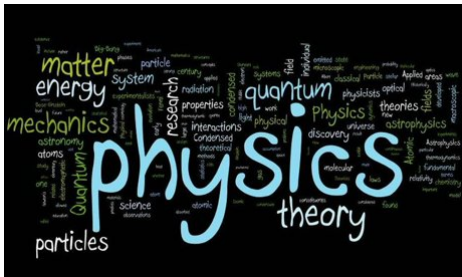
- It requires a lot of memory work so is a good choice for students with attention to detail and excellent memory work.
- The course uses practical activity and investigation to develop your skills and knowledge.
- Careers: Veterinary, Medicine, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Teacher, Microbiology Zoology
- The examination at higher and ordinary level is three hours duration.
- It is strongly recommended to have done Junior Cycle Science.

2. Chemistry

Leaving Cert Chemistry

- Core topics include
- Periodic table & Atomic Structure, Chemical Bonding, Volumetric Analysis, Organic Chemistry & Rate of Reactions
- What is required to study Chemistry ?
- If you are hardworking, like to figure things out & have a general interest in science
- Choose it ?
- It gives a great understanding to all the sciences & how the world works. COVID is a hot topic at the moment and the importance of science has seen a resurgence- so any career in the science, health, beauty, food and even construction industry will benefit from the knowledge & skills you develop in a chemistry class

3. Physics



Physics is the study of how the world around us works.

Careers: research and development, science, engineering, education, medicine, law, business.

Topics:

- Heat
- Optics & Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism
- Modern/Nuclear Physics

Assessment:

- ▶ There is a 3 hour exam for the Leaving Cert Exam
- ▶ There are 22 experiments
- ▶ Anyone who is taking Ordinary or Higher Level Maths can study Physics

4. Leaving Certificate Physical Education

Why Choose Leaving Cert P.E

A student will enjoy this subject if they:

- Have an interest in sport
- Are physically active or interested in coaching
- Are interested in developing their understanding of contemporary issues in

HOW IS LCPE ASSESSED

- 50% Written Exam
- 20 % Performance Assessment
- 30% Physical Activity Project

More Info

Links to career paths:


- Sports Science
- Physical Education
- Leisure and recreation courses
- Media studies
- Physio Therapy
- Personal Trainer Courses

5. Engineering

Why choose Engineering?

A student will enjoy this subject if they:
 Like working with their hands
 Enjoy drawing and sketching
 Want to make and build projects
 Are interested in how technologies work

Would enjoy experiencing **Welding, Electronics, Programming, Basic Robotics, CAD, CAM, 3D printing**



High Higher Level Participation: Current 5th Years have no experience of Metalwork for their Junior Cert & have a huge Higher Level Participation **70-80%**.
NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE NEEDED

Links to Careers & Career Paths

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| From School: Manufacturing Welding Construction Factory & More | Apprentice: Electrician Plumber Engineer Mechanic & More | 3rd Level: All Types of Engineering Product Design CAD Technician & More |
|---|---|---|


You can be close to passing the subject before you sit the exam

How is Engineering Assessed


| |
|---------------------------|
| Project 25-30% |
| Day Practical Exam 25-30% |
| Written Exam 40-50% |

6. Construction

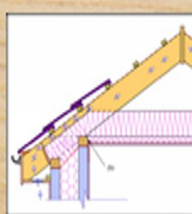
CONSTRUCTION STUDIES



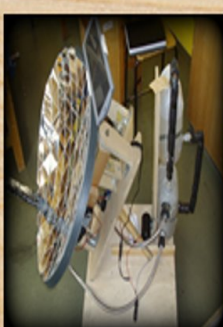
Mahogany & Yellow Pine Table



Examples of Practical Test



Question 1 Theory Test



Sun Tracking Solar Furnace

Previous Experience: It is recommended that students would have at least one year woodwork experience.


Assessment:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Theory Test (Including drawing) | 50% of marks |
| Practical Test (Examples above) | 25% of marks |
| Project Work (Examples to the sides) | 25% of marks |


Careers/Further Study: Most careers in the building industry, Furniture design/manufacture, Education,

Aptitudes/Skills: For those with an interest in any aspect of the building industry or the built environment.

For students interested in design and manufacture of furniture while using 3D computer modelling & 3D printing




Laminated Birch Rocking Chair




Oak Model of Viking House

7. Design Communication Graphics (DCG)

Design and Communication Graphics



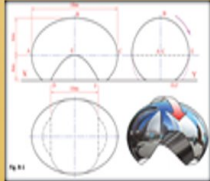


Design Sketch - Drone


Previous Experience: It is recommended that students would have at least one year of technical drawing experience.

Assessment: **Drawing Test:** Based on the topics covered over the two years. **60% of marks**

Project Work: Project consisting of computer modelling and freehand sketching to evaluate existing designs and devise new design concepts. **40% of marks**




Drawing Question




Computer Model - Lectern

Careers/Further Study: Product design & manufacture
Design & planning areas of the building industry
Education

Aptitudes/Skills: Those with an interest in any aspect of design and technical drawing
Students who like to sketch and be creative
For those who like the challenge of problem solving
Students interested in working with computer modelling & 3D printing




Computer Model - Drinks Bottle



Computer Model - Clock

Subjects in the Areas of Arts and Humanities

8. History



History

The subject at JC necessary?

History is compulsory at Junior cert- all students should have a good grounding in the skills required to undertake this subject at Leaving cert.

What does Assessment look like:

5th year: 100% exam. 6th year: 80% Exam, 20% Research Study Report.

What careers it's useful for: Archeologist, Librarian, Broadcast journalist, Human resources, Musuem education officer/gallery curator, Solicitor, Heritage worker, Secondary school teacher and many more.

What Aptitudes/skills are needed to be successful at it:

Research skills, enthusiasm, working to deadline, Judgement skills, writing skills, inquiry skills, analytical skills, memory skills and time management.

9. Geography

Is having taken Geography at JC is necessary?

No, but is an advantage.

What will assessment look like?

20% Field study + 80% final LC exam

What careers it's useful for?

Careers involving: Town planning, Conservation, Sustainability, Waste + Water Management, Environmental Planning, Tourism, Climatology, Teaching and many more.



10. Art

ART

Leaving Certificate Art aims to develop in learners the **knowledge, skills, understanding and values** needed to bring an idea to **realisation** and to respond to, **understand, analyse** and evaluate their own work and the work of others. Each learner is a **unique individual and will be enabled to develop their own skill set in a personal way.**

Assessment:
 Visual Art Studies (History) - 30%
 Practical Art Exam - 20%
 Sketchbook - 50%

Career Prospects:
 Fine art, Graphic Design, Animation, Costume Design, Stage Production, Character Design, Make-Up Design, Illustration, Photography, Film, Art Education, Industrial & Product Design, Fashion & textiles, Printmaking and Interior Design.

LEAVING CERT SKETCHBOOKS

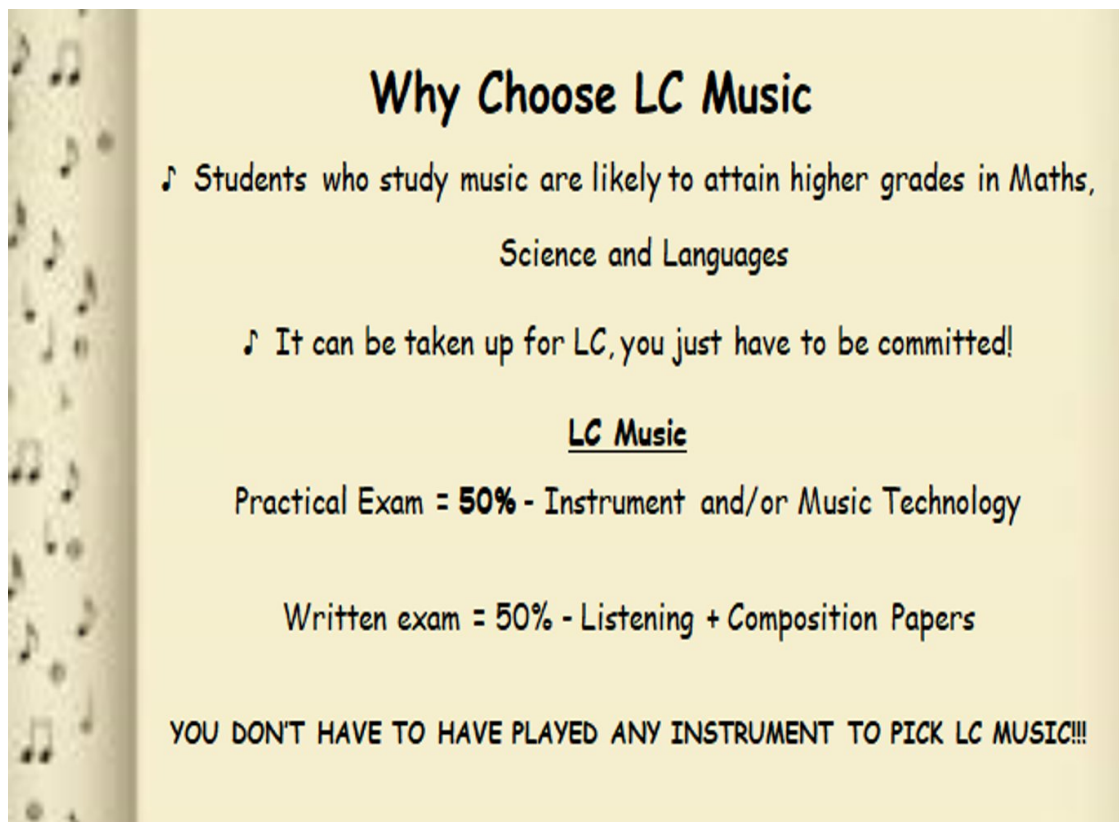
3D CRAFT EXAMPLES

4TH YEAR ART

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.
- Anyone considering a career in a creative discipline such as Architecture, Marketing, Film and Entertainment, Web Design, Fashion, Game Design, or Advertising.
- Students who enjoy expressing themselves through art and like to sketch and doodle.
- Students who are looking for a break from intensive memory-work in their other subjects, or to reduce pressure on themselves in June by having a majority of their marks by May.

11. Music



Why Choose LC Music

♪ Students who study music are likely to attain higher grades in Maths, Science and Languages

♪ It can be taken up for LC, you just have to be committed!

LC Music

Practical Exam = 50% - Instrument and/or Music Technology

Written exam = 50% - Listening + Composition Papers

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE PLAYED ANY INSTRUMENT TO PICK LC MUSIC!!!

Subjects in the Areas of Social, Language and Enterprise

12. Modern Foreign Languages



Why Study French ?

This subject may be a requirement for entry to third level.
See entry requirements for individual colleges.

Career: French is an important diplomatic language. Can be an advantage for working internationally in business, politics, engineering, journalism or as a French teacher.

Requirements : It is strongly recommended that the students would have taken the subject at Junior Cycle.

Leaving Cert Exam Assessment : Oral, comprehension, written section and aural.

Skills : For students that are curious to learn about another culture, students who enjoy reading, writing and communicating.

Spanish



Careers: business, the IT industry, teaching, translation, the hospitality industry, sales, marketing, tourism and careers in the EU.

Why study Spanish?


Skills: For students that are curious to learn about another culture, students who enjoy reading, writing and communicating.




Requirements: It is strongly recommended that the students would have taken the subject at Junior Cycle.

Assessment : Oral, Reading comprehension, written section and Aural at Ordinary & Higher Level.

13. Home Economics

HOME ECONOMICS:



| Overview: | Assessment: | Topics: |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Overview: LC Home Economics is a great all-round subject that covers many topics relevant to our everyday lives.</p>  <p>It is mainly theory based at Leaving Certificate level. There is much less practical work than at Junior Certificate level.</p> | <p>Coursework: 20% There is coursework worth 20% of your overall grade which is mostly done in 5th year and involves some practical cookery.</p> <p>Written Exam: 80% Higher and Ordinary Level available.</p>  | <p>Some topics covered at Leaving Cert include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Food science o Nutrition o Diet-related health o The food industry o The family o Social change o Marriage o Family law o Poverty o Family resource management o Budgeting o Housing  |

14. Business

Business



Junior Cert Business is not essential, a passion for Business as a subject is what is needed.



Business is assessed by means of a written exam.



Possible careers include Management, Entrepreneur, Accountancy and Finance.



Leaving Certificate Business is a popular subject and is very factual so requires you to do a lot of learning.