St Farnan's
Post Primary

Senior Cycle Options

2026

On Monday 2nd students will have subject choice presentations from their teachers & Subject Choice Information Fair

Tonight we will cover…

1. Transition Year – Ms. Tanya Flanagan TY coordinator & Ms. Jo Bradshaw YH
2. Leaving Cert Applied Programme – Mr. Michael Wilkinson & Ms. Jo Bradshaw
3. Leaving Cert – Ms. Anita Cleary & Ms. Stephanie Hayes
4. How to choose senior cycle options and return subject options via Tyro – Mr. Purcell

TY PROGRAMME

Transition Year

TY Coordinator: Ms Tanya Flanagan
Email: Tflanagan@stfarnans.ie

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Transition Year

Transition Year is an **optional year** which can taken following the JC, before a student begins their LC.

It is not like a normal school year because students follow a completely different curriculum and have a more varied course with new modules, trips and projects.

Why opt for Transition Year?

- Challenges facing our Young People.
- Changing attitudes to Education
- Need for skills based learning
- Age profile of Irish students leaving school
- Time to mature

Students' reasons for choosing TY

- Year to mature
- Assess Junior Cert results/ prepare for Senior Cycle
- Explore new subjects/experiences/skills
- Gain a more positive attitude towards school
- To gain confidence
- Age

Applying for Transition Year

- Students fill in an application form.
- The co ordination team interview the students.
- The school use the information gathered to assess if we feel TY would benefit the student.

Subjects & Modules studied in Transition Year

English	Gaeilge	Mathematics	SPHE
Italian	French	Spanish	Physical Education
Art	Music	History	Geography
Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Ag. Science	European Studies	Construction Studies	Engineering
Personal Development	Musical Theatre Studies	Mini-Company	Community Development
Accounting	Business	Applied Maths	Politics & Society
IT	DCG	Robotics	Road Safety
Beginners German	Future Leaders	Food Science	Photography

Assessment of Subjects studied in Transition Year

- System of credits
- Build credits towards their final award
  – Pass, Merit or Distinction
- Credits also for attendance, application, their TY folder, uniform etc.
- Additional credits can be awarded

Additional Courses/Programmes

- First Aid
- Manual Handling
- Work Experience Etiquette
- Suite of online courses
- Team Bonding
- European Parliament Ambassador Schools Programme
- Forensics Workshop
- Work Experience

- Film Making
- GAA/FAI course
- Road Safety Awareness
- Segways
- Communications & Resilience
- Self-Defence

In school opportunities

- Gaisce – Breakfast Club, Football for All
- Seachtain na Gaeilge
- European Day of Languages
- Maths Week
- Science Week
- Community Development
- Guest speakers
- Mini Companies
- EU Model Debate in Dublin City Hall
- TY Page of School Website

Subject-related Outings

- Baysports, Athlone
- National Ploughing Championships
- National Museum, Dail
- Mount Lucas
- Microsoft Dreamspace
- European Commission Offices
- National Gallery
- Riverbank Theatre
- Spanish Restaurant
- End of Year overnight trip…

Work Experience

- Students have work experience **one day a week** - Wednesday.
- Students are given the opportunity to explore various career choices which interest them.
- Employers give written feedback to students and to the school.
- TY coordinator maintains regular contact with placement providers.
- Students keep a weekly diary which includes reflection on their work experience

Work Experience

- Students are also encouraged & facilitated to undertake additional TY Work Experience programmes & opportunities ie. Gardai, Army, AirCorps, National Gallery, RCSI, various companies
- Students have one week of **Community** work experience in **May** in a community setting
- Theme of the week is "**Giving Back**"
- Students are encouraged to try to find a placement of particular interest to them
- We hope it will be a very positive end to their year before they graduate

STEM Programme

- Programme organised by Maynooth University & Microsoft Dreamspace
- Students are given the opportunity to attend 3 days of training in Dublin
- Students complete three assessments and submit them online
- Successful completion of the programme will see students graduating from Maynooth University with a Level 6 qualification
- Graduates also get 60 CAO points which can be used for certain STEM courses in MU

Application Process

- 3rd year students wishing to do TY will have to complete an application form
- Any Late applications will be placed on a waiting list
- Students may be interviewed if there is significant demand for places
- Students will be informed if they have received a place on the TY programme in a timely fashion
- Fees for the TY programme must be paid to reserve your place

Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

Mr. Wilkinson & Ms. Bradshaw

mwilkinson@stfarnans.ie

jbradshaw@stfarnans.ie

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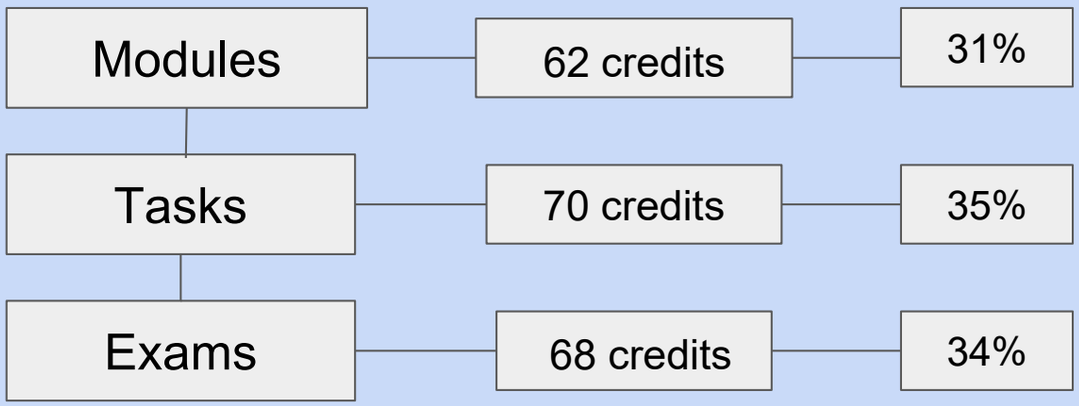
Course Content

General Education
- Art, Irish, Spanish, Leisure & Recreation, Social Education

Vocational Education
- Maths, IT, Engineering, Hotel & Catering,

Vocational Preparation
- English, Guidance, Vocational Preparation

Assessment:



Differences between LC established & LCA:

Work Experience 1 day a week
More practical based learning
Emphasis on Continuous Assessment

Requirements:

90% Attendance
Complete key Assignments in all Subject Areas
Complete 7 Tasks including Interviews
Should have an interest in ICT

Career Related Areas:

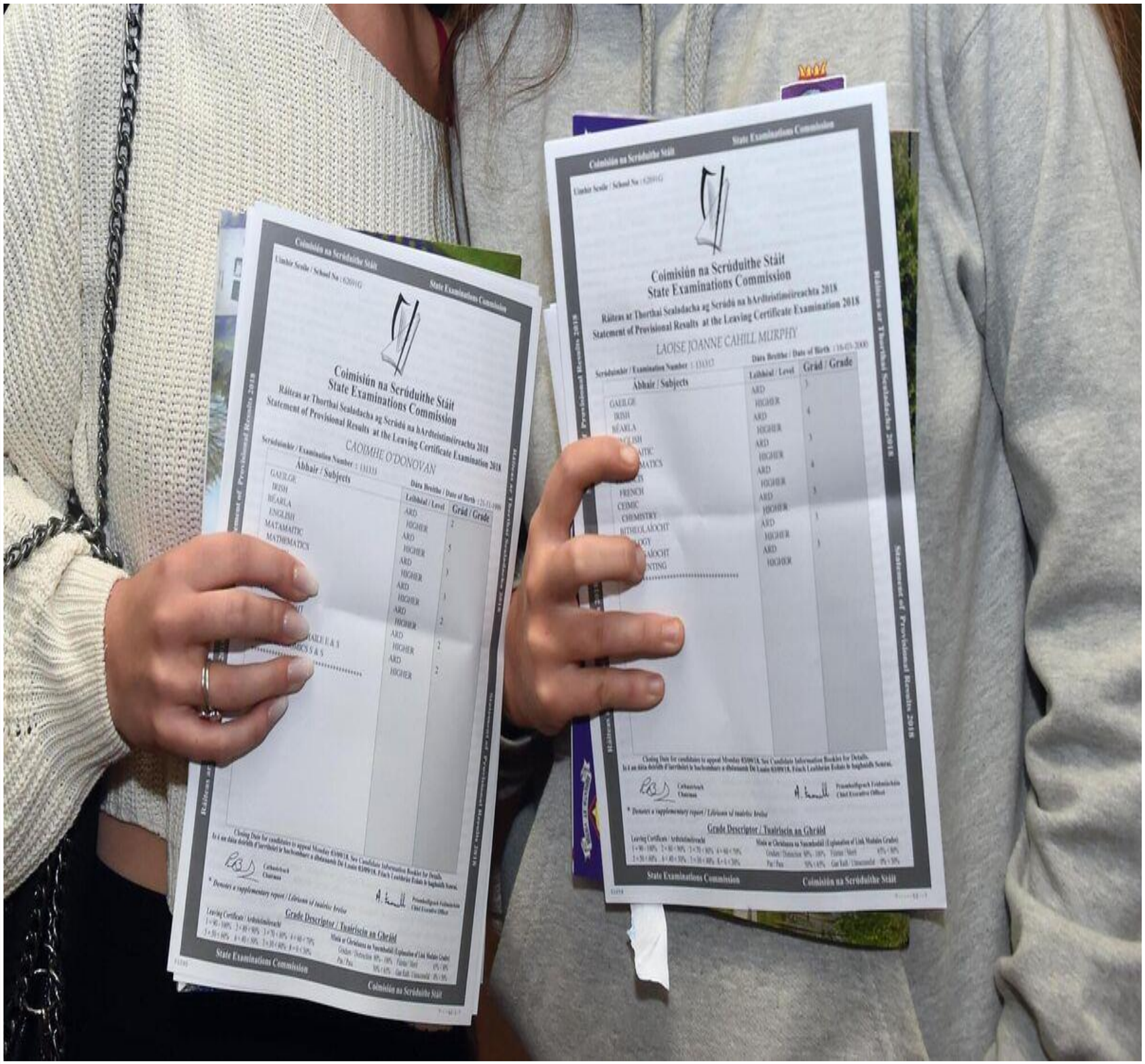
Apprenticeships

PLC Courses

Work

LCA
LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED
ARDTEISTIMÉIREACHT FHEIDHMEACH

Established/ Traditional Leaving Cert



Guidelines for Traditional Leaving Cert/Leaving Cert Established

Most students study **7 subjects** for Leaving Certificate

<u>Core Subjects: English, Maths, Irish</u>

(Unless exempt)

4 more subjects for you to select

Many students will carry on a **third language from Junior Cycle** (Spanish, French, Italian or a non curricular language)

Every effort is made to ensure that students get their choice of options for Leaving Certificate classes (but not always possible)

Essential Subjects for some courses

Science Subject/s are required for most science degrees and medical/ health courses.

Most Honours Engineering Degrees require Honours Mathematics.

An H4 (or higher) in Honours Irish is required for Primary Teaching.

Some courses require a third language.*

Chemistry required for a lot of Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine, Dietetics courses

Some Courses that need a science subject

SCIENCE

Some ENGINEERING courses

MEDICINE (TCD/UCC (2) sciences, UCD/NUIG/RCSI (1) science

DENTISTRY

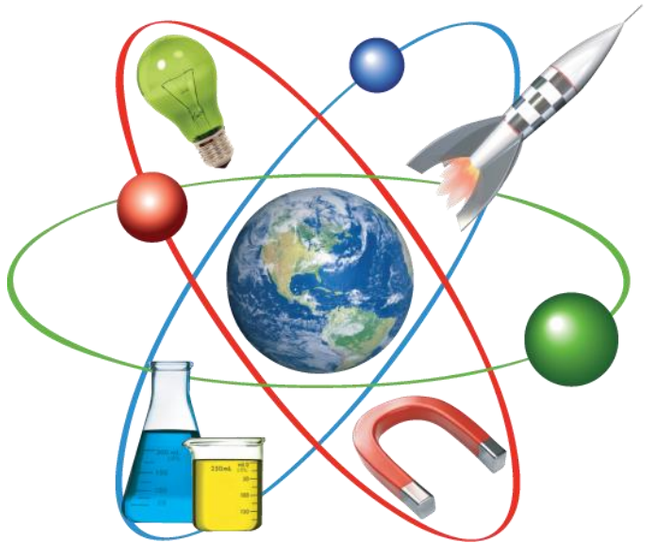
VETERINARY*

PHARMACY*

PHYSIOTHERAPY

RADIOGRAPHY

NURSING



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

SPEECH THERAPY

SPORTS SCIENCE

DIETETICS*

OPTOMETRY

* = Chemistry needed.

Optional Subjects:

Depending on demand expressed by students:

Languages:
-Spanish
-French
-Italian

Sciences:
-Physics
-Biology
-Chemistry
-Agricultural Science

Artistic and Creative:
-Art
-Music

Business:
-Business
-Accounting

Social studies:
-Geography
-History
-Politics and Society

Applied Sciences/Technology:
-Home Economics
-Engineering
-Construction Studies
-Design and Commutation Graphics
-Physical Education
-Applied Maths
- Technology

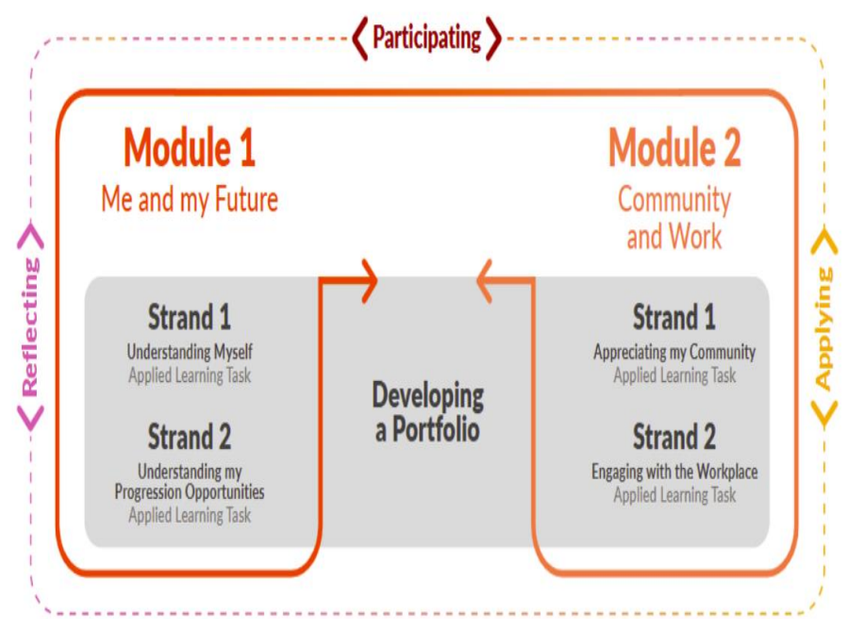
Life, Community & Work

Leaving Cert Life, Community and Work (Formerly LCVP) – A programme that is studied in **conjunction** with studying your other Leaving Cert subjects.
The programme is composed of two integrated modules

Module 1 – Me and my Future
Strand 1 – Understanding Myself
Strand 2 - Understanding my progression opportunities

Understanding Myself – Develop an understanding of your personal strengths, aptitudes, interests and achievements. Students explore the concept of personal development.

Understanding my progression opportunities – Explore and investigate a variety of progression opportunities after the Leaving Certificate.



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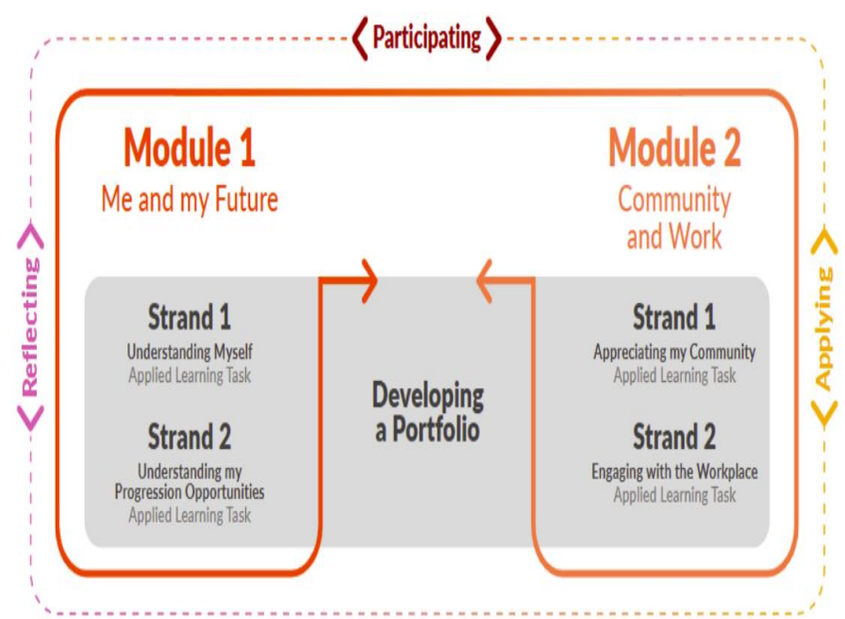


Life, Community & Work

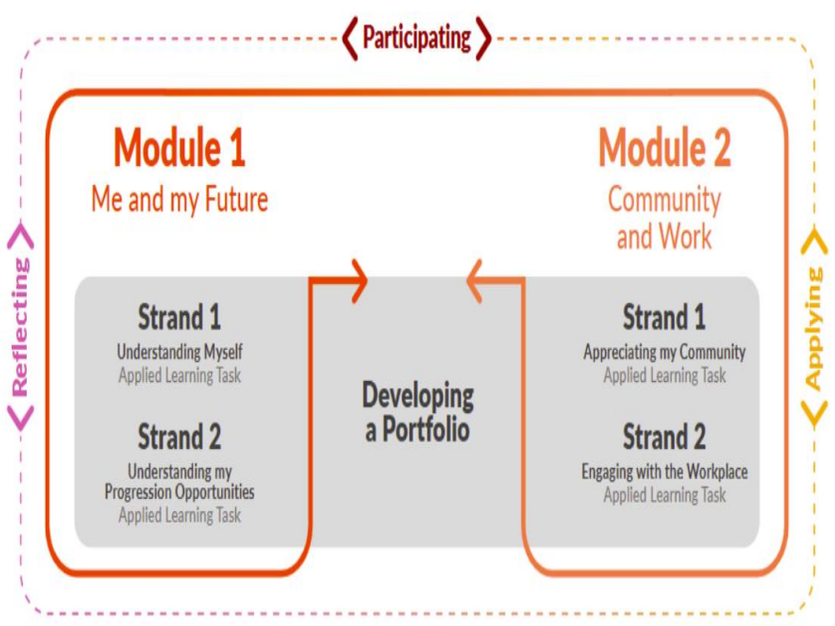
Module 2- Community and Work

•Strand 1 – Appreciating my community – Learning to appreciate the importance of community and identifying different ways to participate and contribute positively.

•Strand 2 – Engaging with the workplace – Students learn how to apply for jobs and develop a deeper understanding of the job application process, shortlisting and the interview process, considering the role of technology in this process.

Assessment for Certification

Two assessment components
Written Project – 40% - Common
Portfolio in Action – 60 % - Common



Distinction (80 – 100%) 66 points (equivalent to grade H4 in Higher Level) grade O1 in Ordinary Level = 56 points.
Merit (65 – 79%) 46 points (equivalent to grade H6 in Higher Level / grade O2 in Ordinary Level).
Pass (50 – 64%) 28 points (equivalent to grade O4 in Ordinary Level)

What happens if I do not take a language other than Irish and English?

- Many NUI colleges such as **Maynooth University**, UCD, University of Galway and UCC require a pass (40%) in a third language (e.g. Spanish/French) for entry into a **large number** of their courses

- **Trinity** accepts Irish as a second language requirement. **UL and DCU and the Institutes of Technology/Technological Universities do not require a third language** for entry purposes to most of their courses.

Non Curricular languages

Non Curricular languages
For 2026 these examinations are offered in the following subjects:
Latvian, Romanian, Slovenian, Modern Greek, Finnish, Estonian, Slovakian, Swedish, Czech, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Danish, Dutch, Croatian, Maltese and Ukrainian.

There are also other curricular languages such as Polish that you can complete outside of school also

Consider the following when choosing subjects

What subjects do you enjoy?

Do you have an interest in the subject?

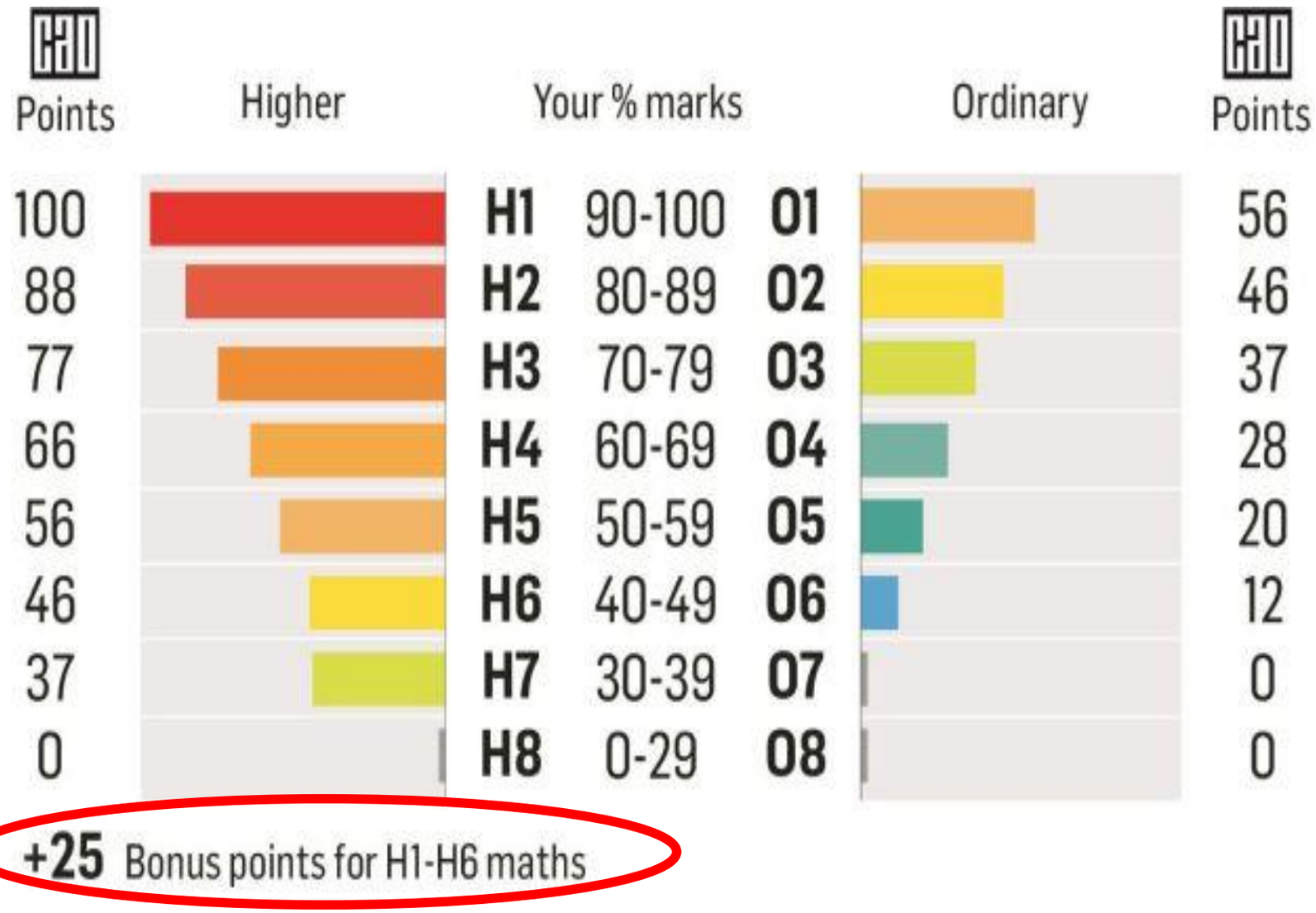
What subjects are you good at? (your ability in the subject)

Do you need a particular subject for a future college course or career?

- Do what comes naturally:
- 1. It is easier and more comfortable for you
- 2. Why make life more difficult?

The Seven Deadly Sins Of Subject Choice

Leaving Cert subjects are split into Higher and Ordinary Level



Life, Community & work

Distinction 66

Merit 46

Pass 28

Leaving Cert

- If you plan on going to 3rd level College/University (TCD/UCD/DCU/Maynooth/TUD etc) you need Leaving Cert CAO points
- Your TOP 6 subjects only are counted for Leaving Cert points for college
- Different courses require different subjects as minimum entry requirement e.g. English, Maths.
- Other courses need a Science subject
- Some courses require Irish or a foreign language

Many options after the Leaving Cert

Higher Education – Colleges such as Maynooth, TCD, DCU, SETU etc

PLC's (e.g Dunboyne College of Further Education) – **don't require LC points**

Tertiary Degrees – new option

Apprenticeships

World of work

Gap year

Subject Explorer

Practical Group

These subjects are 'hands-on' and involve working with tools and machinery on physical things like wood, metals and plastic. They may involve designing, planning and building things.

- Construction Studies
- Engineering
- Technology

Science Group

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

- Agricultural Science
- Applied Maths
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Physics and Chemistry
- Computer Science

Artistic & Creative Group

These subjects involve developing creativity and the appreciation of the work of others. This involves learning the methods and techniques of the subject and producing your own work using these skills.

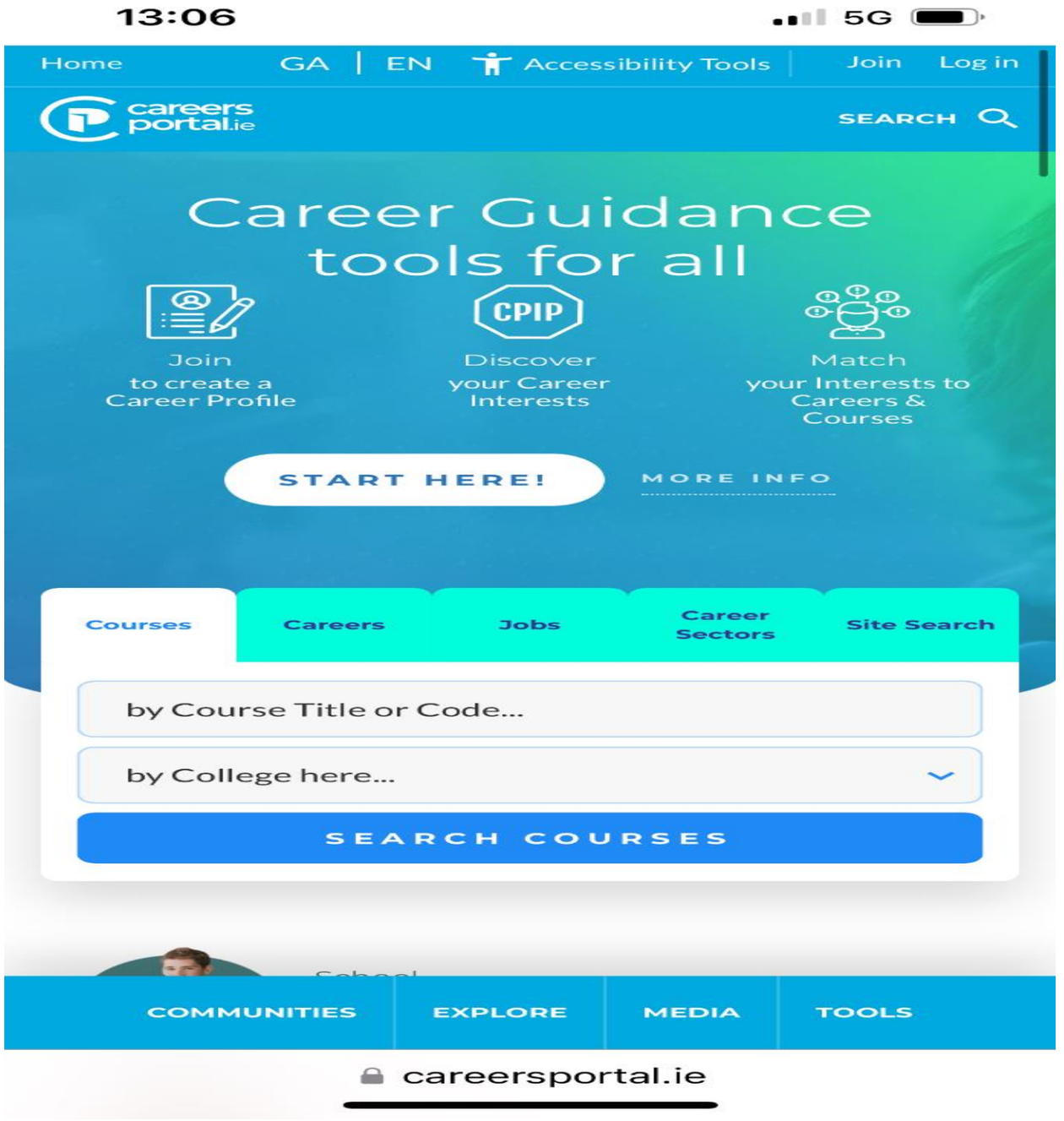
Careers portal – subject explorer

LINK:

https://careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer.php

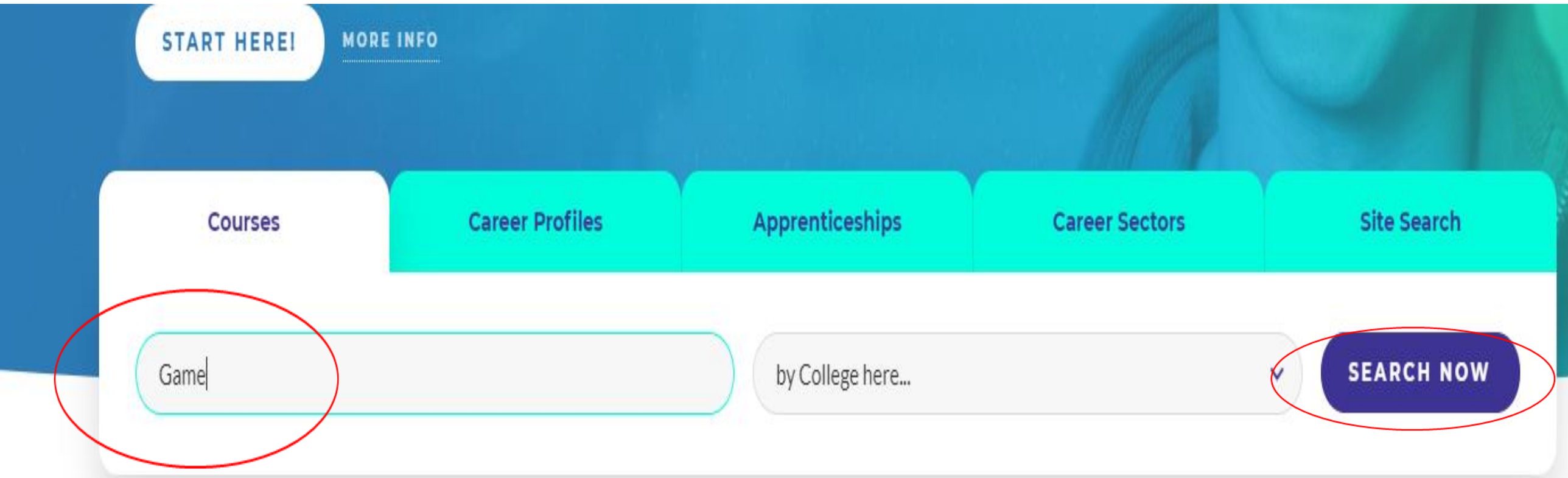
Using careersportal.ie to examine entry requirements for courses

Log on to careersportal.ie



In the courses box search for a career you might like in the future e.g Game (Game design) & click search

- Don’t Filter by college



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Home GA | EN Accessibility Tools Join Log in

careers portal.ie SEARCH

course finder

Game

Filter Courses

Game ×

Found 46 courses

Clear All Filters

Sort by

Course Title

5M5048 ME PLC

3D Game Design

Bray Institute of Further Education

5 Level 1 Year QQI Links

Save Share

AU617 CAO

Animation and Game

COMMUNITIES EXPLORE MEDIA TOOLS

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careers portal.ie SEARCH

course finder

Filters Clear All View 46 courses

Healthcare, Wellbeing & Sport

STEM, Environment & Construction

Course Type

PLC (Further Education - FET)

CAO (Higher Education - HET)

Tertiary Education Programmes

Postgraduate

Northern Ireland (UU & CAFRE)

More options*

CAO Language Options

COMMUNITIES EXPLORE MEDIA TOOLS

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careers portal.ie SEARCH

course finder

Filters Clear All View 46 courses

CAO Language Options

Special Filters

Course Level

Career Interests

Region

County

Colleges

Search for college name

COMMUNITIES EXPLORE MEDIA TOOLS

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Save Share

US706 CAO
Game Art and Design (Clonmel Campus)
TUS Midwest

Level 7 | 3 Years | QQI Links | New!

Save Share

TU984 CAO
Game Design
TU Dublin - Grangegorman

Level 8 | 4 Years | QQI Links | 402 Points -52

Save Share

DL854 CAO
Game Design
Institute of Art, Design and Technology Dun Laoghaire - IADT

Level 8 | 4 Years | QQI Links | 343 Points

Save Share

COMMUNITIES EXPLORE MEDIA TOOLS

careersportal.ie

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QQI | Level 8 | NFQ Type: Major

Duration	Attendance	CAO Points 2025 Round 2
4 Years	Full Time	402

Points Change: -52

MORE DETAILS

COURSE SUMMARY

This four-year course focuses on the creation and study of games. It covers the design and development of digital and analogue games, including PC, mobile, Web, card and board games.

Topics include in-depth analysis of games, practical hands-on development experience and theoretical game studies. Along the way, you'll also learn important industry skills such as programming, game design, digital media asset creation, project management and game publishing.

COLLEGE LINK

College Link > TU984 - Game Design

Colleges often have information about the course on their own website, along with other use

ask

COMMUNITIES EXPLORE MEDIA TOO

careersportal.ie

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Duration	Attendance	CAO Points 2025 Round 2
4 Years	Full Time	402

Points Change

-52

MORE DETAILS

- Course Summary
- Language Options
- Entry Requirements
- PLC Progression Links
- The Student
- Career Progression
- Further Research

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Points History	Minimum Subjects
402	2 H5 & 4 O6/H7

- ✓ O4/H7 IN English OR Irish
- ✓ O4/H7 IN Maths

COMMUNITIES | EXPLORE | MEDIA | TOO

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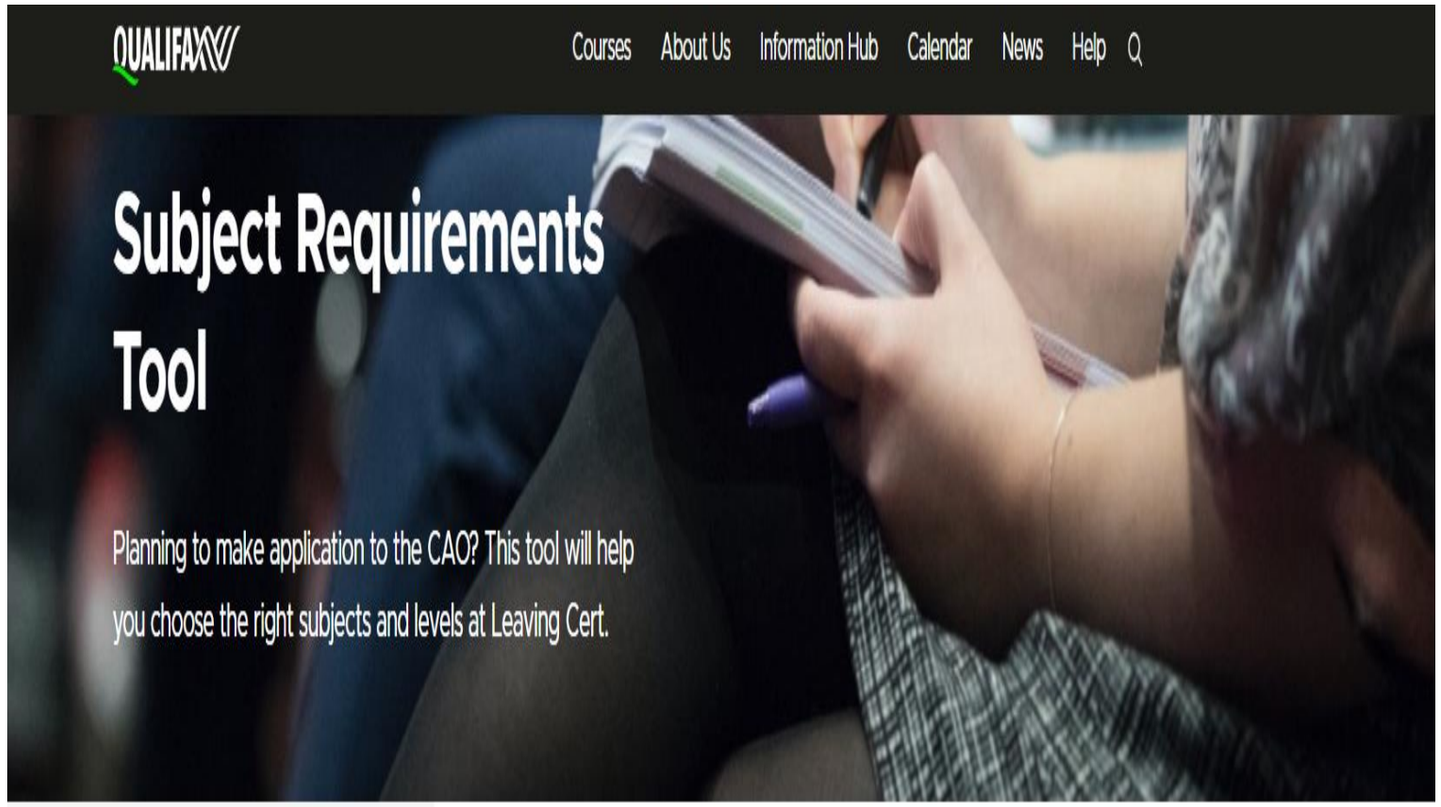
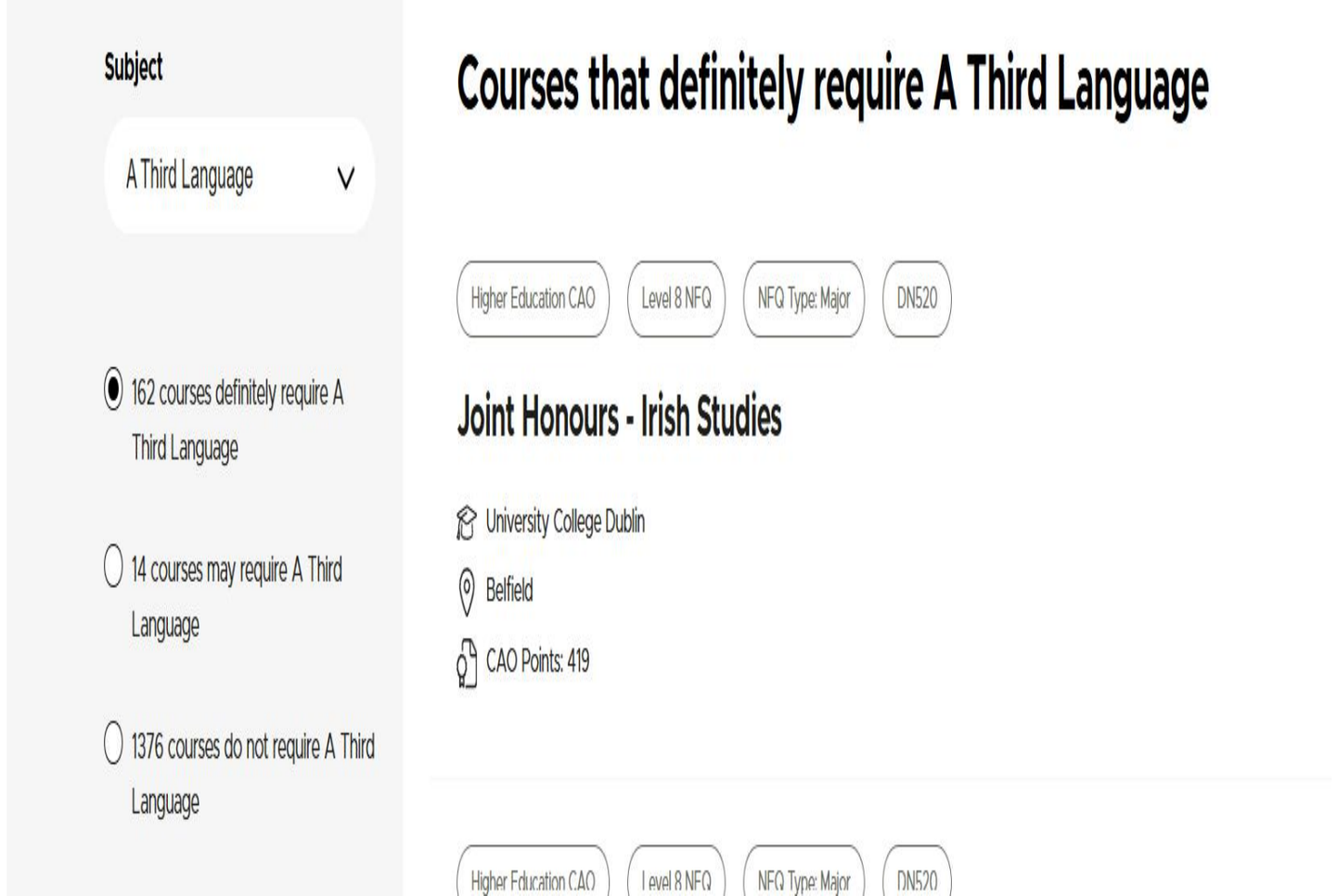
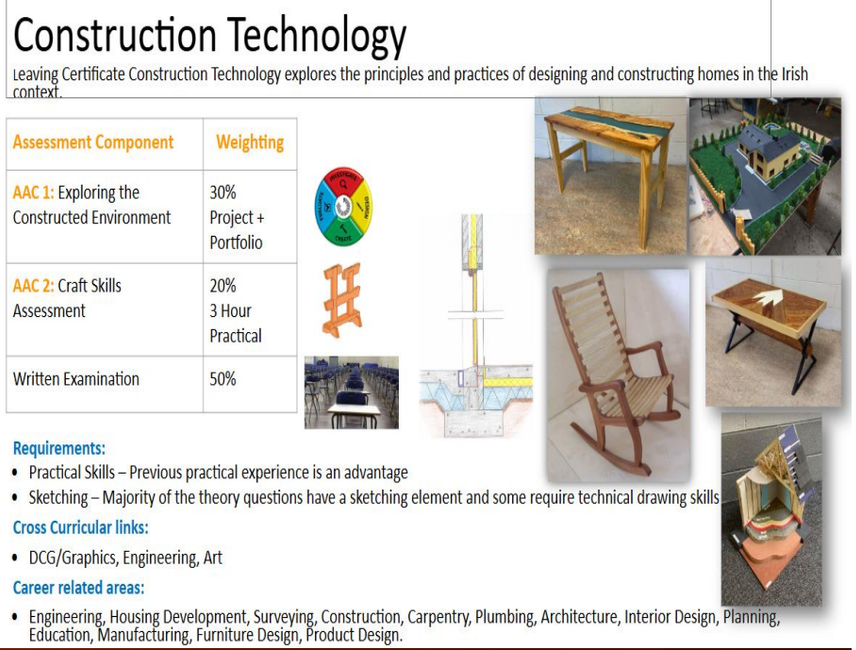


- https://www.qualifax.ie/subject-requirements/16286/definite



- Can filter by courses that require:
- A science subject
- A second language (English/Irish)
- A third language (foreign language)



Student Information sessions

Monday 2nd March

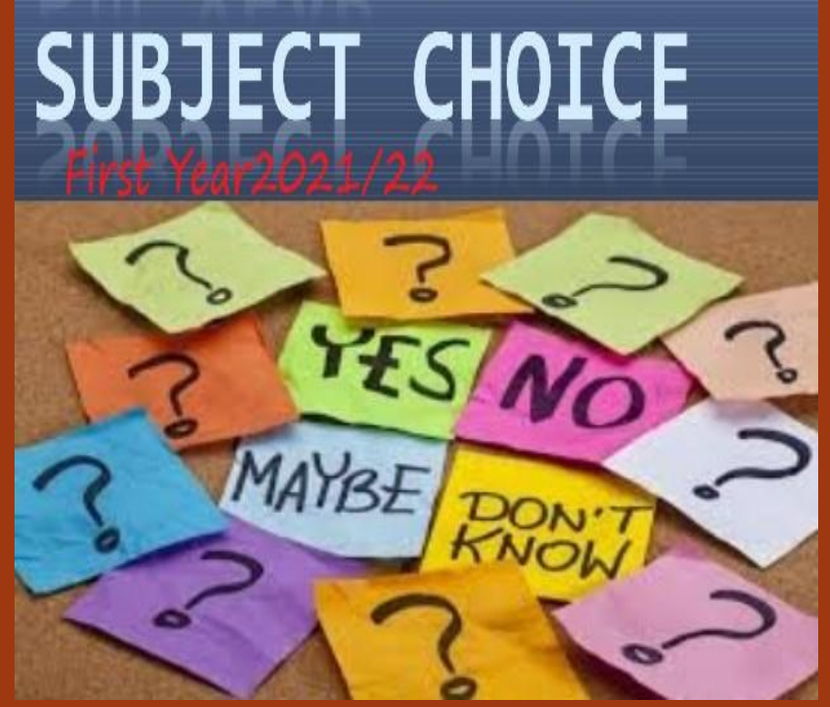
Morning Session:

All 3rd and TY students will have senior cycle options and individual subject choice presentations from their teachers.

Afternoon Session:

Students will have opportunity to talk to teachers and current 5th year students at a subject choice information fair in the gym.

More Information



Talk to your teachers/ ask questions

Use careersportal/qualifax to explore courses/subjects

Contact Ms. Cleary or Ms. Hayes - emails:

anitacleary@stfarnans.ie

shayes@stfarnans.ie

Lunch time drop in clinic – Guidance office
Lunch Monday and Tuesday Next week.

Career Fair

Open to 3rd years going straight into 5th year!

St Farnan's Post Primary School

CAREERS FAIR EVENING

WEDNESDAY
4TH MARCH 2026
6.30 PM - 8.30 PM

TY, 5th and 6th Year students along with their parents and guardians all welcome

"If you can see it, you can be it"

Leaving Certificate 5th year OPTIONS 2026-2027

BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA
CHILL DARA AND CHILL MHANTÁIN
KILDARE AND WICKLOW
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Senior Cycle Options Forms

1st Step
Google Form.
Will be sent to school email on Monday 2nd March.
To be completed by Tuesday 3rd March.

3rd years: *Number TY, 5th year Leaving Cert Established or 5th year LCA 1 in order of preference.*
TYs: *Number 5th year Leaving Cert Established or 5th year LCA 1 in order of preference.*
If LCE is your first choice, identify the option subjects you are you likely to pick.

2nd Step
TY or LCA application form (school decides on suitability for programme)
and/or
LCE options selection form on TYRO only

IMPORTANT Information

- Monday 2nd March - presentation to 3rd year & TY students from teachers of each subject area about their Leaving Certificate options subjects.
- **This year, the 5th year Options MUST be filled in on-line in TYRO. A text will be sent with a link next week.**
- **This Options procedure MUST BE COMPLETED by 4pm FRIDAY6th MARCH, 2026.**
- **All Students definitely going through to 5th year Established Leaving Cert MUST complete this.**
- **2026-2027 LCA and TY candidates – do not complete this.**

Core Curriculum subjects

- Gaeilge*
- English
- Maths

Options x 4 subjects incl. French / Spanish / Italian

- *Some students do not study Irish or MFL language – a separate subject may be placed on during Irish time, Eg: Geography or Life, Community & Work (formerly LCVP)

- Career Guidance
- SPHE including RSE modules
- Study Skills/Physical Education/LCW/Applied Maths
- Tutorial & Pastoral Care class

Options subjects

- Put ALL 12 subjects in order of your preference
- **Accounting; Agricultural Science, Art; Applied Maths, Biology; Business; Chemistry; Construction Studies; Design and Communication Graphics (DCG); Engineering; French; Geography; History; Home Economics (S&S); Italian; Music; Physics; Politics & Society; Physical Education Spanish; Technology.**

- You will receive 4 subjects from this list

Options – note 1

- **While every effort will be made to give students their subjects preferences it may not always be possible.**

- **Certain subjects may not be available this coming year due to teacher allocation quotas or an extremely small number of students opting for a particular class.**

Options – note 2

- PLEASE mark the subject that you **most want** as PREFERENCE 1

- The subjects that you want nearly as much as PREFERENCE 2 etc….

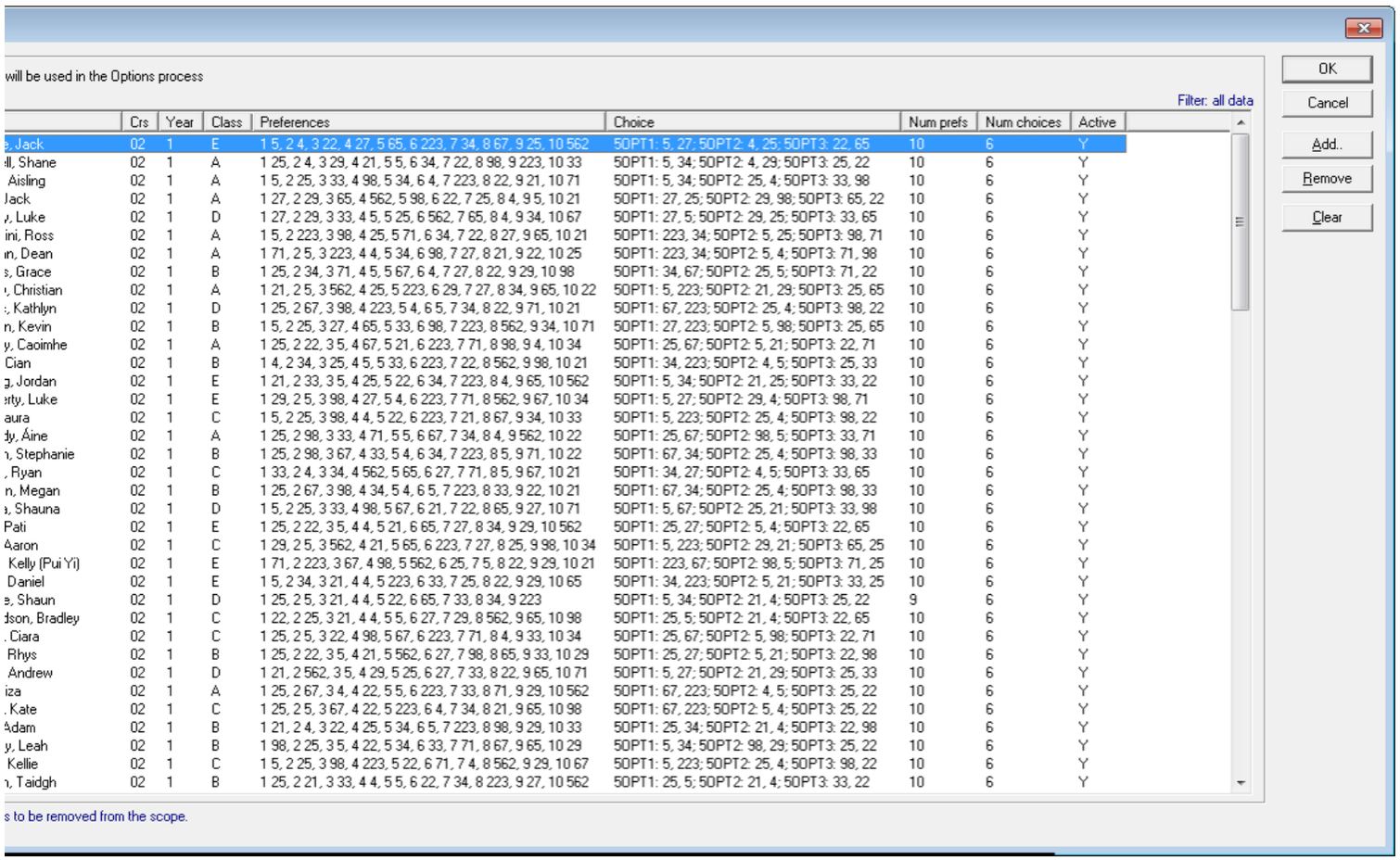
PREFERENCE	SUBJECT
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	

- Unfortunately, this process does not give 100% satisfaction to all students across the 3 choice subjects…usually a 87% – 94% satisfaction rating across the 1st four choices….

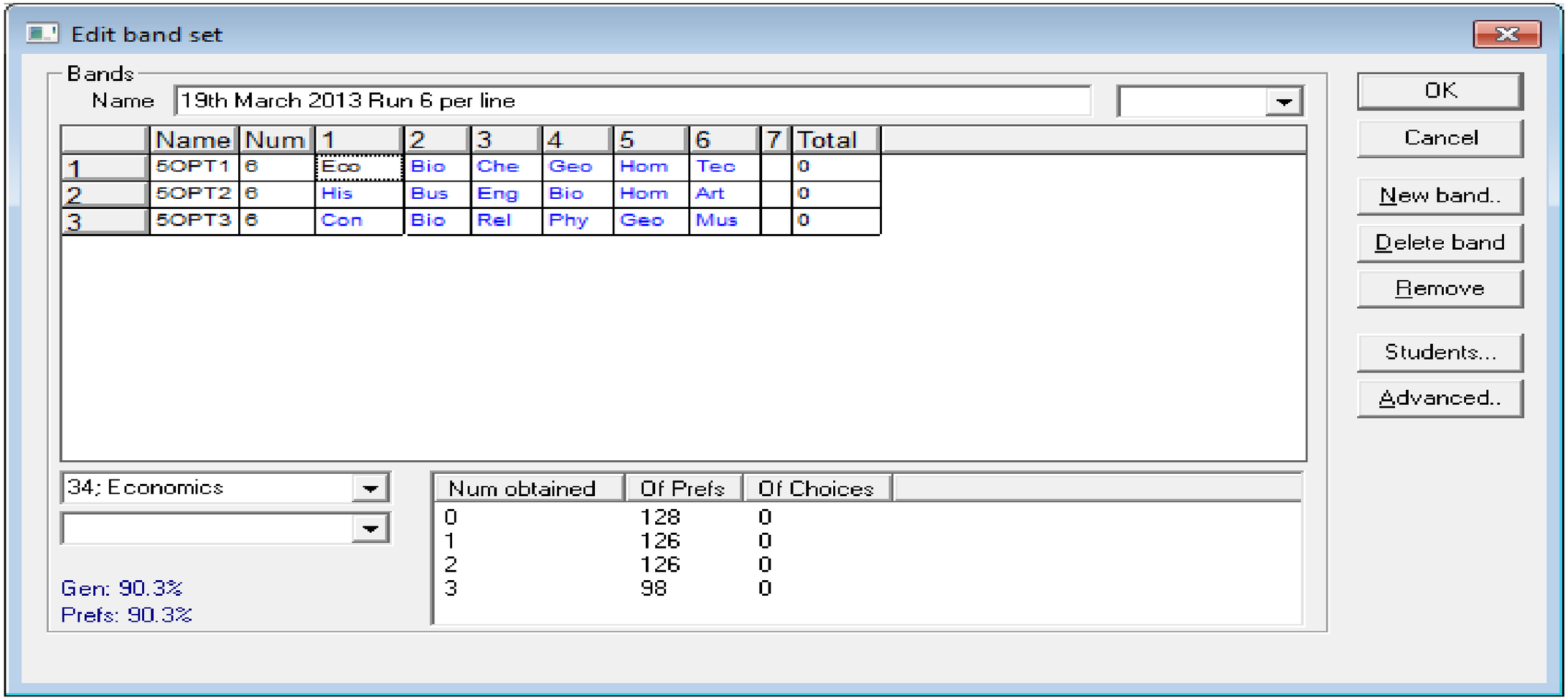
- There are times that one subject area may not be on the 5th year timetable due to staff/allocation resource issues.

- This has a greater impact on students who choose this as their 1st preference, but we will endeavour to make sure that those minority of students get their highest possible choices.

PLEASE CROSSCHECK all subject data inputted by STUDENTS/PARENTS on TYRO before final submitting of Options. You MUST choose 8 of 12 preferences.



What the options lines may look like….. *Student choice is most important…*



Extra subjects

- **Applied Maths** – may run outside of school options classes. Please indicate on your form if you are interested in applying for this extra subject

OR

- **Life, Community and Work(formerly Leaving Cert Vocational Programme) – a class may run outside of timetabled options classes or for a small group who have an Irish exemption**
- . L.C. points for LCW are different than normal subjects (Distinction, Merit & Pass grades)

- Some students may also take extra subjects (example: Polish or other languages/Music) outside of the school timetable – please check in August as there are restrictions on certain subjects with practical elements to it most projects/portfolios CANNOT be written up & completed at home/outside the classroom

What to do if NOT happy!

- When you receive your 5th year choices …
- If you are unhappy with an option…please write a short note outlining the reasons to the Deputy Principal and we will look at these and see what we can do to help.
- Unfortunately we **cannot** guarantee that a change will be possible due to the reason outlined above.

Long process…

- This is a long process as teacher allocation & timetabling processes will have to be completed before we can hand out the final options classes.
- Hopefully, they will be ready by the middle of May before the Transition Year Graduation night & Junior Cycle exams.
- Thank you, Andrew Purcell