

Option Subjects for Leaving Certificate

Leaving Certificate students in St. Caimin's take a number of compulsory core subjects and then have the opportunity to select any 3 optional subjects from a list of 15. As a school we endeavour to meet everybody's personal preferences but this may not always be possible. It is important for students to inform themselves before making their preferences. There are multiple subject teachers who students should feel free to approach to seek out specific subject information. The Guidance Counsellor (Ms Fitzpatrick) is also a key point of contact for students as are the Deputy Principals (Ms Glendon Garry, Ms Sheehan) and Principal (Mr Cunningham). This document also aims help with this process.



Accounting



Applied Mathematics



Agricultural Science



Art



Biology



Business



Chemistry



Construction Studies



Design & Communication Graphics



Engineering



Geography



History



**Home Economics
Social & Scientific**



Music



Physics

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.



What will I learn in Accounting?



How will I learn Accounting in school?

The core aspects of accounting are covered in class on a daily basis. The skills developed using a variety of approaches include: logical thinking, planning, problem solving, work and study.

Textbook material supplemented by previous examination questions are used on a daily basis to enable students to understand and practice topics on the syllabus.

Your teacher will communicate your progress with you on a regular basis using;

- Classwork
- Homework
- Topic Tests
- Term Exams

How is Accounting assessed for Leaving Certificate?

Accounting is assessed at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level, by means of a single component

- A 3 hour terminal written examination paper, with 3 sections involving a mix of short questions and long questions. This carries 100% of the total marks for this subject.

Where can I get more information about Accounting ?

Feel free to message Ms. O'Loughlin or Mr. Costello on Teams for more information or contact the Guidance Counsellor, Ms. Fitzpatrick. CareersPortal.ie also provides additional information [here](#)

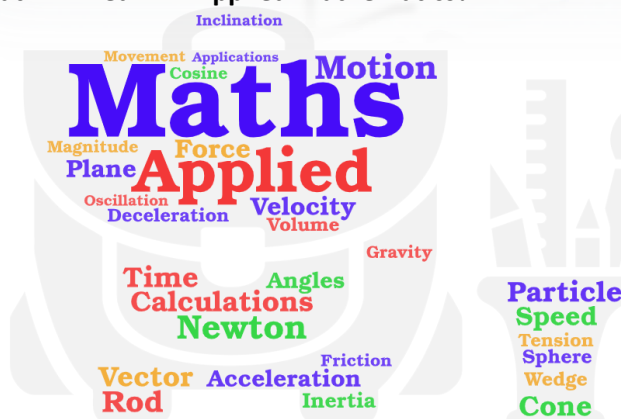
Applied Mathematics



Leaving Certificate Applied Mathematics introduces modelling through exploration of real problems in the physical, natural, and economic worlds. Modelling requires students to turn authentic situations into mathematical structures. They then operate on those mathematical structures and generate a solution or a strategy to address the situation. The cycle of defining the problem, translating it to mathematics, calculating and evaluating the solution provides some of the most challenging, exhilarating, democratic work students will ever do in mathematics, requiring the best from all of them, even the ones who dislike mathematics.



What will I learn in Applied Mathematics?



How will I learn Applied Mathematics in school?

An understanding of mathematical principles and their applications form the basis for this subject. Students will engage on a daily basis with mathematical based problems in class.

Teacher demonstrations and class discussions are used to aid understanding.

Independent learning is developed through the posing of challenges where students explore possible solutions to a variety of problems.

Digital technologies are used throughout to support learning.

Your teacher will communicate your progress with you on a regular basis using;

- Classwork
- Homework
- Class Tests

How is Applied Mathematics assessed for Leaving Certificate?

Applied Mathematics is assessed at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level, by means of two components

- A 2.5 hour terminal written examination paper, with mathematical based questions. This exam carries 80% of the total marks for this subject.
- A modelling project which carries 20% of the marks for this subject.

Where can I get more information about Applied Mathematics?

Feel free to message Mr. McMahon on Teams for more information or contact the Guidance Counsellor, Ms. Fitzpatrick. CareersPortal.ie also provides additional information [here](https://careersportal.ie)

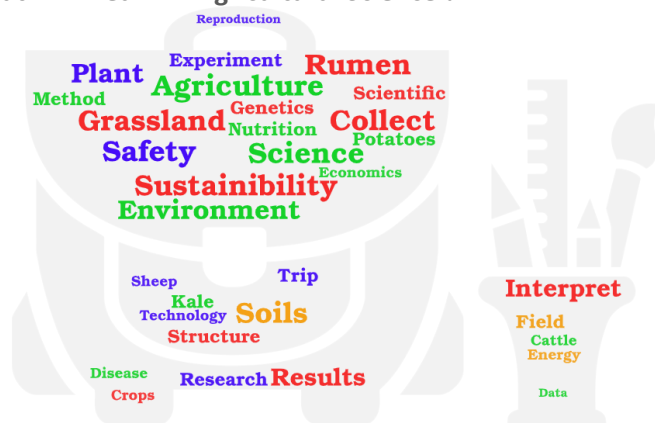
Agricultural Science



Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science involves the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture. It aims to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that promote the sustainability of agricultural resources, and places emphasis on the managed use of these resources. 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.



What will I learn in Agricultural Science ?



How will I learn Agricultural Science in school?

The scientific approach of investigation and enquiry forms the basis for this subject. Students will use a range of laboratory equipment to regularly participate in 'hands-on' experiments and complete reports.

Students will use digital technologies where appropriate to collect, record, analyse and display data.

Your teacher will cover topics and reinforce this learning with sample exam paper questions and regularly communicate your progress using;

- Classwork
- Homework
- Project work
- Class Tests
- Assignments

How is Agricultural Science assessed for Leaving Certificate?

Agricultural science is assessed at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level, by means of two assessment components;

- A project which runs over the course of year 1 and year 2. This carries 25% of the marks for this subject.
- A 2.5 hour terminal written exam which will cover all aspects of the specification including experiments which were carried out in class. This carries 75% of the total marks for this subject.
- A set of mandatory experiments must be carried out over the 2 year course. These feed into the learning required for the terminal exam. They can be requested by a visiting inspector but do not carry marks in their own right.

Where can I get more information about Agricultural Science ?

Feel free to message Ms. O' Meara or Ms. O' Leary on teams or contact the Guidance Counsellor, Ms. Fitzpatrick. CareersPortal.ie also provides additional information [here](https://careersportal.ie)

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. The learner will become aware of the world of Visual Studies, how it can inform their own work and life, and thereby become more aware of their own place in a wider society.



What will I learn in Art?



How will I learn Art in school?

Hands-on work forms an important part of this subject. Making/creating art from conception to realisation using a range of skills and chosen materials as appropriate.

The visual expression of all aspects of culture, created by past, recent modern and contemporary societies, is called Visual Studies and will be studied in relation to practical work

An important part of practical work throughout Leaving Certificate Art is the 'Art Sketchpad' which students will use and maintain .

Your teacher will communicate your progress with you on a regular basis using;

- Classwork
- Homework
- Project work
- Assignments

How is Art assessed for Leaving Certificate?

Art is assessed at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level, by means of three assessment components

- Practical coursework. This carries 50% of the total marks for this subject
- An Invigilated Examination. This is held in term 2 of year 2. It carries 20% of the total marks for this subject.
- A 2.5 hour terminal written examination paper. This Written examination carries 30% of the total marks for this subject.

Where can I get more information about Art?

Feel free to message Ms Whitty on Teams for more information or contact the Guidance Counsellor, Ms Fitzpatrick. CareersPortal.ie also provides additional information [here](#)

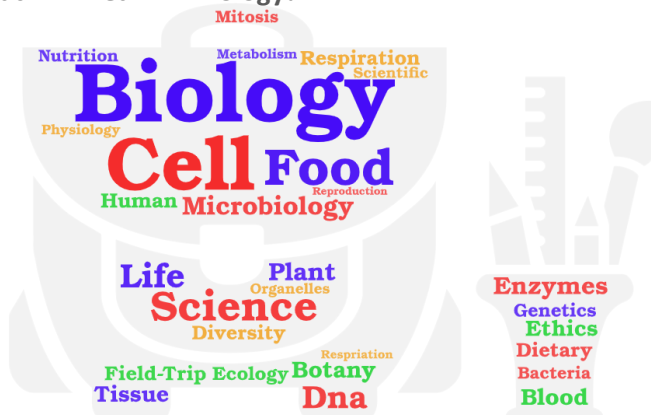
Biology



Leaving Certificate Biology aims to give learners an appreciation of the complexity of the processes of the cell and of the organism, of the diversity and interrelationships of all living things and their environment. Learners will develop essential knowledge and understanding of different areas of biology and how they relate to each other, and understand how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how biology contributes to society.



What will I learn in Biology?



How is Biology assessed for Leaving Certificate?

Biology is assessed at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level, by means of a single component

- A 3 hour terminal written examination paper, with 3 sections involving short questions, experiment questions and long questions. This carries 100% of the total marks for this subject.
- A set of mandatory experiments must be carried out over the 2 year course. These feed into the learning required for the terminal exam. They can be requested by a visiting inspector but do not carry marks in their own right.

How will I learn Biology in school?

The scientific approach of investigation and enquiry forms the basis for this subject. Students will use a range of laboratory equipment to regularly participate in 'hands-on' experiments and complete reports.

In other classes we also infuse social context in biology teaching and learning. Through a variety of approaches students learn to make connections between what they learn in the classroom setting and what they see in their everyday lives.

Your teacher will communicate your progress with you on a regular basis using;

- Classwork
- Homework
- Experiment work
- Class Tests
- Assignments

Where can I get more information about Biology?

Feel free to message Ms. O'Meara, Ms. Roche, Ms. Egan or Ms. O'Leary on teams for more information or contact the Guidance Counsellor, Ms. Fitzpatrick. CareersPortal.ie also provides additional information [here](#)

Business

Leaving Certificate Business creates an awareness of the importance of business activity and develops a positive and ethical attitude towards enterprise. The learning experiences in business develop students' critical thinking, creative and organisational skills while enhancing literacy and numeracy skills using real-life examples. Business provides students with a learning foundation for a wide range of careers in business, marketing, law, enterprise and management.



What will I learn in Business ?



How is Business assessed for Leaving Certificate?

Business is assessed at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level, by means of a single component

- A 3 hour (2.5 hour at O.L) terminal written examination paper, with 3 sections involving short questions and long questions. This carries 100% of the total marks for this subject.

How will I learn Business in school?

Business is a theory based subject with some numbers attached throughout the various units.

Teaching aids and methodologies such as note taking, handouts, slide shows, mind mapping, use of graphic organisers, effective questioning, and anticipation exercises are used in this subject

Exam practice and preparation is carried out through the use of digital learning approaches, past papers and assessment quizzes.

Your teacher will communicate your progress with you on a regular basis using;

- Classwork
- Homework
- Project work
- Class Tests
- Assignments

Where can I get more information about Business ?

Feel free to message Ms. O'Loughlin, Ms. Collins or Mr. Moynihan on Teams for more information or contact the Guidance Counsellor, Ms. Fitzpatrick. CareersPortal.ie also provides additional information [here](#)

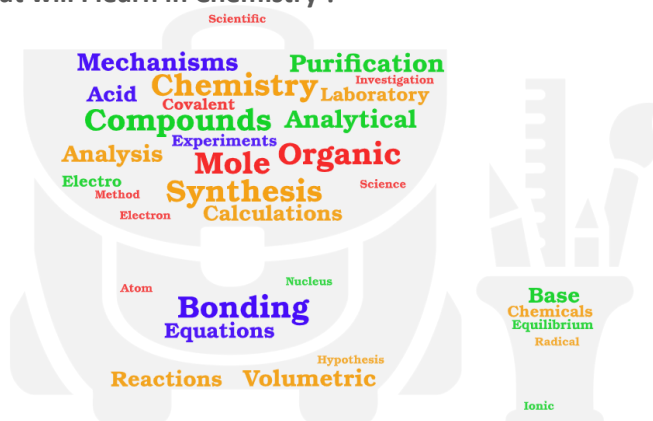
Chemistry



Leaving Certificate Chemistry aims to stimulate and sustain learners' interest in, and enjoyment of chemistry, while developing an understanding of the fundamental principles underlying chemical phenomena. Learners will use their knowledge and understanding of chemistry to pose scientific questions, define scientific problems, and use scientific arguments and ideas to illustrate how humanity has benefited from the study and practice of chemistry.



What will I learn in Chemistry ?



How is Chemistry assessed for Leaving Certificate?

Chemistry is assessed at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level, by means of a single component

- A 3 hour terminal written examination paper, with 2 sections involving short questions, experiment questions and long questions. This carries 100% of the total marks for this subject.
- A set of mandatory experiments must be carried out over the 2 year course. These feed into the learning required for the terminal exam. They can be requested by a visiting inspector but do not carry marks in their own right.

How will I learn Chemistry in school?

The scientific approach of investigation and enquiry forms the basis for this subject. Students will use a range of laboratory equipment to regularly participate in 'hands-on' experiments and complete reports.

More in-class methods involve class discussion, group work, questioning, problem solving and making calculations. This is linked to understanding the everyday significance of Chemistry around us.

Your teacher will communicate your progress with you on a regular basis using;

- Classwork
- Homework
- Experiment work
- Class Tests
- Assignments

Where can I get more information about Chemistry ?

Feel free to message Ms. Mc Phillips or Ms. O'Leary on Teams for more information or contact the Guidance Counsellor, Ms. Fitzpatrick. CareersPortal.ie also provides additional information [here](#)

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. Students develop their ability to communicate ideas and information and to apply accurate observation and scientific investigation through exploring materials and processes.



What will I learn in Construction Studies ?



How will I learn Construction Studies in school?

Construction Studies is taught in two branches, theory and practical. These complement and feed into each other.

A lot of the time, work is practical in nature and 'hands on' with make or design and make projects.

Theory involves activities like board drawing, sketching, case studies, analysis and calculating.

Digital technologies are used to support learning throughout.

Your teacher will communicate your progress with you on a regular basis using;

- Classwork
- Homework
- Project work
- Class Tests
- Assignments

How is Construction Studies assessed for Leaving Certificate?

Construction studies is assessed at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level, by means of three components

- A student project & portfolio. It carries 25% of the total marks for this subject.
- A practical 'Day Exam'. This is a 4 hour skills exam that is held in May of year 2. It carries 25% of the total marks for this subject.
- A 3 hour terminal examination paper with a mix of short, long and drawing questions This carries 50% of the total marks for this subject

Where can I get more information about Construction Studies ?

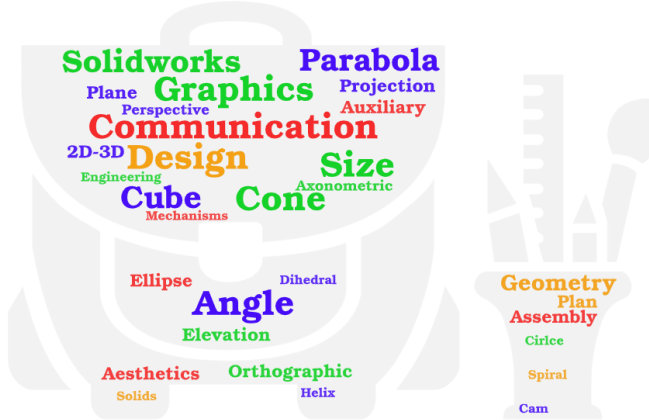
Feel free to message Mr. Aherne on Teams for more information or contact the Guidance Counsellor, Ms. Fitzpatrick. CareersPortal.ie also provides additional information [here](https://careersportal.ie).

Design & Communication Graphics



Leaving Certificate Design and Communication Graphics involves comprehending, analysing and communicating information presented verbally or graphically. Problem solving and creative thinking skills are developed through the analysis and solution of problems in both two and three dimensions graphics. Graphics and design are communicated using a variety of media, including computer-aided design (CAD). The main areas of study are: Plane & Descriptive Geometry, Communication of Design & Computer Graphics and Applied Graphics.

What will I learn in DCG?



How will I learn DCG in school?

Board drawing forms the basis of most of the work in this subject. On a nearly daily basis problems are solved by drawing with the aid of technical instruments like the T-square, set squares, compasses and other geometry tools.

Computer aided design is another important element and there are periods where this and other digital technologies are heavily used.

Your teacher will communicate your progress with you on a regular basis using;

- Classwork
- Homework
- Project work
- Class Tests
- Assignments

How is the DCG assessed for Leaving Certificate?

Design and Communication Graphics is assessed at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level, by means of two assessment components:

- A student assignment, of which CAD forms a significant compulsory element. This runs from September to January of year 2. This carries 40% of the total marks for this subject.
- A 3 hour terminal examination paper, with 3 sections involving short and long drawing board style questions. This carries 60% of the total marks for this subject.

Where can I get more information about DCG?

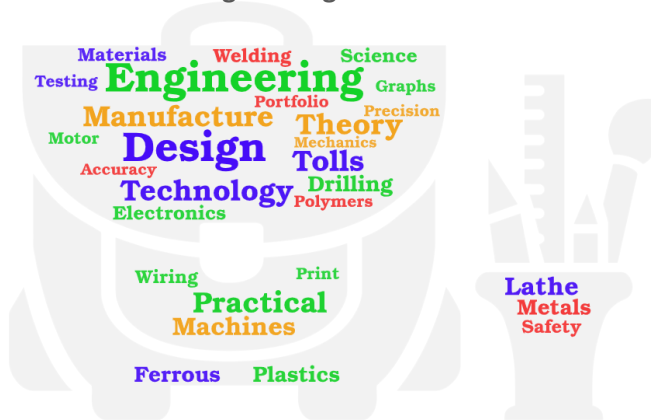
Feel free to message Mr. Dunne on Teams for more information or contact the Guidance Counsellor, Ms. Fitzpatrick. Careers Portal.ie also provides additional information [here](#)

Engineering

Leaving Certificate Engineering is the study of mechanical engineering for students in the senior cycle of post-primary education. Students develop the skills and initiative in the planning, development and realisation of technological projects in a safe manner. Practical resourcefulness, creativity and design in the planning and development of technological projects are emphasised. There are two main areas of study; Materials & Technology and Workshop Processes



What will I learn in Engineering ?



How will I learn Engineering in school?

Engineering is taught in two branches, theory and practical. These complement and feed into each other.

Sometimes work is practical in nature and 'hands on' such as when students make, or design and make projects.

A balancing element of theory is covered as in a more traditional classroom setting

Digital technologies are used to support learning throughout.

Your teacher will communicate your progress with you on a regular basis using;

- Classwork
- Homework
- Project work
- Class Tests
- Assignments

How is Engineering assessed for Leaving Certificate?

Engineering is assessed at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level, by means of three assessment components:

- A student 'Design and Make' project & portfolio. This runs from October to March of year 2. It carries 25% of the total marks for this subject.
- A practical 'Day Exam'. This is a 6 hour skills exam that is held in May of year 2. It carries 25% of the total marks for this subject.
- A 3 hour terminal examination paper with a mix of short, long and drawing questions This carries 50% of the total marks for this subject

Where can I get more information about Art?

Feel free to message Mr. Duddy or Mr. Dunne on Teams for more information or contact the guidance counsellor, Ms. Fitzpatrick. Careers Portal also provides additional information [here](#)

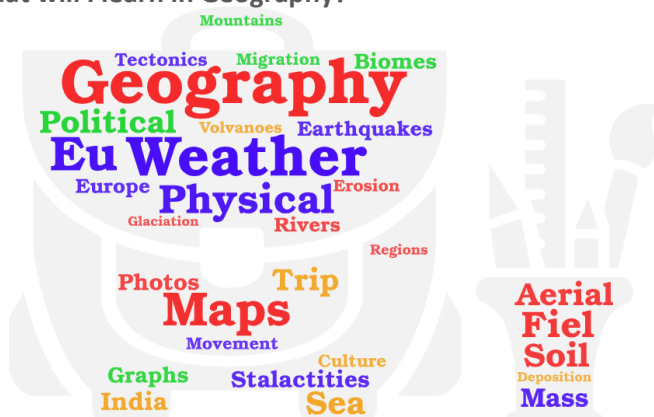
Geography

Leaving Certificate Geography will help students develop an understanding of the changing relationships between the physical and human worlds. Through their study of geography, students will develop geographical skills that will help them to make informed judgements about issues at local, national and international levels. Leaving Certificate Geography may be studied at Ordinary or Higher level. The course is divided into 3 elements:

Core, elective and optional units of study.



What will I learn in Geography?



How will I learn Geography in school?

Classroom approaches to learning and understanding the theory element for this subject involve multiple approaches that include group work, discussion, map work, case studies and essay writing skills.

Field work which explores the physical landscape around us is an important element that is planned for in class whilst implemented outside of the classroom on trips.

Digital technologies are used to support learning throughout.

Your teacher will communicate your progress with you on a regular basis using;

- Classwork
- Homework
- Project work/Field work
- Class Tests
- Assignments

How is Geography assessed for Leaving Certificate?

Geography is assessed at Ordinary and Higher level, by means of two assessment components:

- A geographical investigation (Field Study) which is carried out during year 2. This carries 20% of the total marks for this subject.
- A 2 hour 50 minutes terminal exam with 3 sections at ordinary level and 4 sections at higher level. This carries 80% of the total marks for this subject.

Where can I get more information about Geography?

Feel free to message Ms. Byrne, Mr. Quealy, Ms. Ryan or Ms. Morey on Teams for more information or contact the Guidance Counsellor, Ms. Fitzpatrick. CareersPortal.ie also provides additional information [here](#)

History



Leaving Certificate History deals with the experience of human life in the past. The study of history involves an investigation of the surviving evidence relating to such experience. It 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.



What will I learn in History ?



How will I learn History in school?

Classroom approaches to learning and understanding in history include group work, peer work, discussion, and essay writing skills.

The ability to develop confidence and critical analytical skills is a key factor in history. A multitude of books, magazines, videos and other resources are used to develop this.

Digital technologies are used to support learning throughout with a particular emphasis on research tools using the internet and video/media archives to aid research skills.

Your teacher will communicate your progress with you on a regular basis using;

- Classwork
- Homework
- Project work/Study report
- Class Tests
- Assignments

How is History assessed for Leaving Certificate?

Leaving Certificate history is assessed at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level by means of two assessment components;

- A research study report which is carried out during year two. This carries 20% of the total marks for this subject.
- A 2 hour 50 minute terminal examination paper with a mix of short and long answer questions This carries 80% of the total marks for this subject.

Where can I get more information about History ?

Feel free to message Mr. Keane, Ms. O'Brien or Ms. Maguire on Teams for more information or contact the Guidance Counsellor, Ms. Fitzpatrick. CareersPortal.ie also provides additional information [here](#)

Home Economics (Social & Scientific)

Leaving Certificate Home Economics provides students with knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes necessary for managing their own lives, for further and higher education and work. The learning experiences in Home Economics develop flexibility and adaptability in students, prepare them for a consumer-oriented society and provide a learning foundation for a wide range of careers in food, textiles, science, design, social studies and tourism. The syllabus is based on a core of three areas of study: Food Studies, Resource Management & Consumer Studies and Social Studies and a Social Studies elective



What will I learn in Home Economics?



How will I learn Home Economics in school?

Food Studies is at the heart of Home Economics with an emphasis on nutrition and health. This is carried out in class using a variety of approaches including discussion, case studies and practical work.

The family as a social unit in a consumer orientated world is another element that we focus on within the subject.

Digital technologies are used to support learning throughout

Your teacher will communicate your progress with you on a regular basis using;

- Classwork
- Homework
- Food Studies Assignments
- Practical cooking
- Class Tests

How is Home Economics assessed for Leaving Certificate?

Leaving Certificate home economics is assessed at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level by means of two assessment components;

- A food studies practical research project journal which is carried out in year 1 and submitted in October of year 2 This carries 20% of the total marks for this subject.
- A 2 hour 30 minute terminal examination paper with a mix of short and long answer questions This carries 80% of the total marks for this subject.

Where can I get more information about Home Economics?

Feel free to message Ms. Cleary or Ms. Counihan on Teams for more information or contact the guidance counsellor, Ms. Fitzpatrick. Careers Portal also provides additional information [here](#)

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. In performing, students choose from a variety of individual and/or group performing activities. In composing, students develop an understanding of musical structure and form, while the listening component provides for rich aural experiences through exposure to music of different periods, styles and genres.



What will I learn in Music?



How will I learn Music in school?

Active demonstration and engagement plays a key role in learning music. Activities include, teacher and student led demonstrations, composing, generating music, playing and singing.

Individual musical expression is developed through instrumental/vocal instruction and ultimately self discovery through practice and engagement.

Analysis of music within the areas of performance, composition and listening to identify musical information, in order to make critical findings and deductions is an important aspect of this subject.

Your teacher will communicate your progress with you on a regular basis using;

- Classwork/Homework
- Practical Performance
- Class tests

How is Music assessed for Leaving Certificate?

Leaving Certificate music is assessed at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level by means of two assessment components;

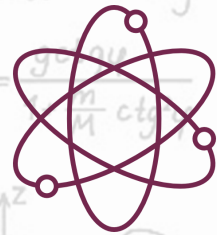
- A performance practical exam which is carried out in April of year 2. This carries 50% of the total marks for this subject.
- A 3 hour terminal examination paper with two sections; core (listening) and composition. This carries 50% of the total marks for this subject.

Where can I get more information about Music?

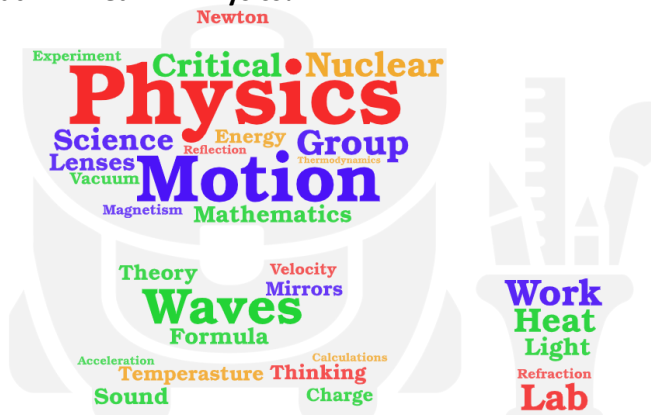
Feel free to message Ms. Fahey or Ms. Killeen on Teams for more information or contact the Guidance Counsellor, Ms. Fitzpatrick. CareersPortal.ie also provides additional information [here](#)

Physics

Leaving Certificate Physics aims to give students an understanding of the fundamental principles of physics and their application to everyday life. It offers a general education in physics to all students, enabling them to develop an understanding of the scientific method and their ability to observe, to think logically and to communicate effectively. Science technology and society (STS) is an integral part of the syllabus so that students can be aware of the principles of the applications of physics in the everyday world.



What will I learn in Physics?



How will I learn Physics in school?

The scientific approach of investigation and enquiry forms the basis for this subject. Students will use a range of laboratory equipment to regularly participate in 'hands-on' experiments and complete reports.

In other classes a variety of approaches are used including demonstrations, note taking, developing important mathematical skills, group work, class discussion, exploring prior knowledge, practicing question techniques.

Digital technologies are used to support learning throughout.

Your teacher will communicate your progress with you on a regular basis using;

- Classwork
- Homework
- Class Tests/Quizzes
- Experiments

How is Physics assessed for Leaving Certificate?

Physics is assessed at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level, by means of a single component

- A 3 hour terminal written examination paper, with 2 sections involving short questions, experiment questions and long questions. This carries 100% of the total marks for this subject.
- A number of mandatory experiments must be carried out over the 2 year course. These feed into the learning required for the terminal exam. They can be requested by a visiting inspector but do not carry marks in their own right.

Where can I get more information about Physics?

Feel free to message Ms. Fallon on Teams for more information or contact the Guidance Counsellor, Ms. Fitzpatrick. CareersPortal.ie also provides additional information [here](#)