



Larkin Community College
Coláiste Pobail Lorcáin

Senior Cycle

Subject Options Booklet



Contents

1. Introduction to Senior Cycle Options
2. General Requirements for third level
3. QQI's (Post Leaving Certificate Courses - PLCs)
4. Senior Cycle Options
5. Established Leaving Certificate:
 - A. Subject Choice
 - B. Languages
 - C. Science Group
 - D. Arts Group
 - E. Business Studies Group
 - F. Applied Science Group
 - G. Practical Group
 - H. Humanities
 - I. Careers
6. Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)
7. Summary

Introduction to Senior Cycle Options

When choosing Options for Senior Cycle, students and parents should be advised of the following:

- **All Subjects, except for Higher Level Maths, are the same for calculation of points** for University/College entry. Points are calculated on your best 6 subjects.
- Students can attain 25 bonus points once they achieve a grade of H6 at Higher Level. (See more information on new Grading System on P.43).
- **When choosing subjects remember:**
 1. Choose subjects that you **enjoy**.
 2. Pick subjects that you have an aptitude for and will therefore give you the **highest possible grades**.
 3. Choose subjects where you **have achieved good grades**.

NB

Do not pick a subject (or Senior Cycle Programme) solely because your friends are doing that subject or course. Follow your own interests when making your decision.

Guidance Counsellors Larkin College

- Mr. Browne
- Ms. Hynes

General Requirements for Third Level

There are **certain subjects that are essential for entry** into particular courses, colleges, and careers. It is the **student's responsibility** to research these. Particular attention should be paid to Science and Engineering courses at third level as these may require a science subject or Higher Level Maths.

If you want to study Art or Architecture at third level a portfolio may be required. It is important you research your courses and talk to your Guidance Counsellor as early as possible if this is a route you would like to take.

Music is another area where you may have to do an audition or an interview as part of the application process.

The requirement of a third language applies to study courses at certain Universities.

It is important that students have fully researched, or talked to the Guidance Counsellor, about the implications of not studying a language before making a choice.



QQI's (Post Leaving Certificate Courses)

For some students, direct entry into a third level college may not be possible on completion of the Leaving Certificate. Another popular progression route is the PLC route. These are one year courses (some have a second year option) in a range of specialised areas and are available in schools and colleges of further education nationwide.

PLC courses offer a mixture of "hands-on" practical work, academic work and work experience and they help students develop vocational and technological skills in order to get a job or to go into further education and training. They are designed as a step towards skilled employment and, as such, they are closely linked to industry and its needs. Post Leaving Certificate courses adopt an integrated approach, focusing on technical knowledge, core skills and work experience. Almost 50% of the time spent on these courses is devoted to knowledge and skill training related to employment, with a further 25% on relevant work-based experience.

Over 90% of PLC courses are delivered by ETBs (Education Training Boards). At present, over 1,200 courses are on offer in some 229 centres. A wide range of disciplines are covered including business, electronics engineering, computing, catering, sport and leisure, theatre and stage, performance art, art craft and design, equestrian studies, multi-media studies, journalism, tourism, marketing, childcare and community care, hairdressing and beauty care, applied science, horticulture etc.

The qualification you receive at the end of your training will depend on the type of course you have chosen. Many of the one-year PLC courses offer Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) accreditation at Level 5 which can lead to further studies at third level, through a system known as the Higher Education Links Scheme. This scheme provides access to a reserved number of places on a variety of courses in educational institutions including universities and institutes of technology.

Please talk to your Guidance Counsellor for more information on this.

Other Career Routes

Other progression routes include apprenticeships, to a wide range of trades and crafts (such as electrician, joiner and mechanic). This is where you work for an employer as an apprentice in a chosen area and learn the necessary skills, knowledge and attitudes to become qualified.

During the apprenticeship you will receive an apprentice wage for your on-the-job phases from your employer and while off the job you will receive a training allowance if appropriate.

There are apprenticeships available in areas such as accounting, finance, insurance, hair, mechanics, etc.

Other

As we are a DEIS school if you meet certain requirements including a household income threshold you will be eligible to apply for the:

- TU Dublin Access Programme
- Trinity Access Programme
- Higher Education Access Route
- DCU Ac

Senior Cycle Options

Larkin Community College offers three different programmes to Senior Cycle students as outlined below, including two Leaving Certificate options that cater for the different interests and abilities of the students in our care.

1. Transition Year

This is an optional one-year programme for students who have completed the Junior Cert.

2. Established Leaving Certificate

There are two two-year programmes for Leaving Cert. students.

3. Leaving Certificate Applied

A two-year Leaving Certificate programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life.

What are my choices?

- **Students currently in 3rd year** can opt for 1 of the below:
 - a) TY
 - b) Established Leaving Cert
 - c) **Leaving Cert Applied**

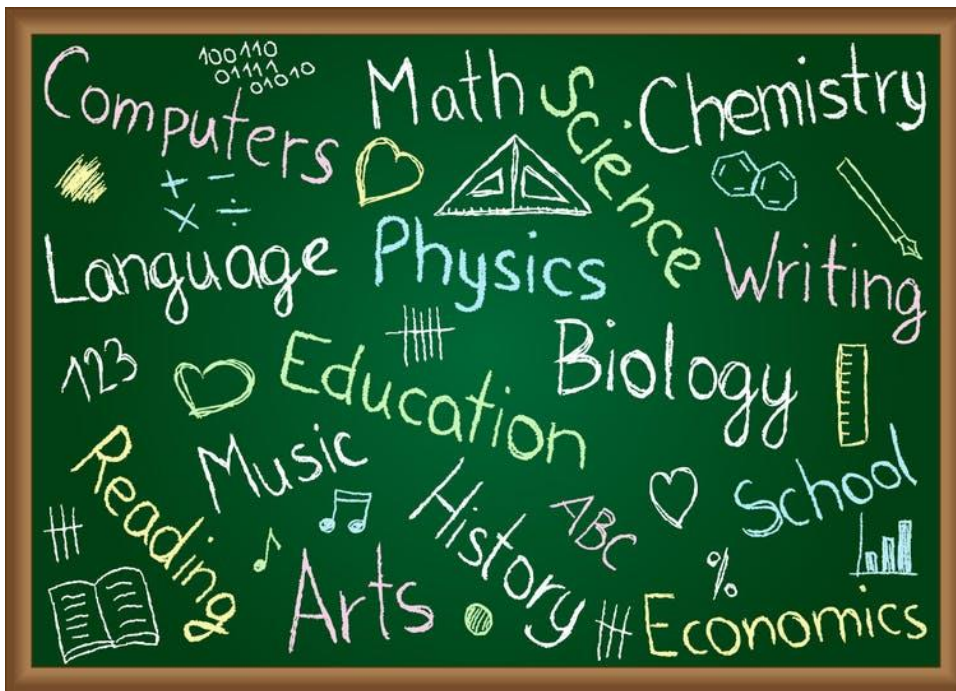
- **Students currently in TY** can opt for 1 of the below:
 - a) Established Leaving Cert
 - b) Leaving Cert Applied

- Students who choose Established Leaving Cert must **choose 4 subjects**. Details of these subjects are outlined in detail below

5: Established Leaving Certificate A: Subject Choice

At Leaving Cert. examination level, students study seven subjects. For state examinations, they study:

- Each student will study the **3 Core Subjects**:
 - Irish (unless exemption granted)
 - English
 - Maths
- Students can then choose **4 more Options**
- **Total Subjects = 7**
- **You must have a keen interest in the subject.**
- **You should choose subjects that give you the best chance of achieving high grades.**



Leaving Certificate Subjects

Leaving Certificate Subjects are grouped as follows:

(Please note that it is possible to choose more than one subject from each group area.)

Compulsory: Irish, English and Maths

Language Group:

Italian and Spanish

Science Group:

Biology and PhysChem

Social Studies Group:

Art, Music

Business Studies Group:

Accounting, Business

Humanities & Applied Science Group:

Geography, History, Social & Scientific (Home Ec.) and Physical Education

Practical:

Architectural Technology (Construction),

Other Languages

Please note some students may wish to study Russian, Romanian, Polish, Lithuanian and other languages, which are offered at Leaving Cert.

These subjects are usually sat on a voluntary basis outside school time. Please give your name to the Guidance Counsellor if you are considering studying any additional language and if we have enough numbers we may be able to arrange after school supports.

The following pages give a brief account of the type of courses provided in the subjects on offer in the school.

Languages

- Students should be aware that a modern language is required by Maynooth University, UCD, UCC, and NUI Galway. However, some faculties in Maynooth University and UCD, including Business, Engineering and Science, no longer require a modern language.
- All NUI colleges require at least a pass grade in Irish unless you have an exemption.
- The language entry requirements for other universities and courses vary e.g. Trinity accept Irish as a modern language, while DCU, DIT and I.T. Blanchardstown accept English or Irish.
- The language requirements for third level can be confusing so consult your Guidance Counsellor for further information and assistance.

Italian

Course Content

The course is divided into two broad categories: language and culture. Students build on the language skills developed in Junior Cycle Italian through the exploration of a variety of every day situations and topics, which enhance the skills of listening, reading, comprehension and writing in Italian. Students are also introduced to many aspects of Italian culture such as literature, cinema, art and music.

Assessment

The Leaving Cert. examination comprises three sections:

- **Oral Exam** - 25% in H.L, 20% in O.L.
- **Aural Exam** - 20% in H.L, 25% in O.L.
- **Written Exam** on reading comprehension and writing ability - 55%

Careers

Italian can be useful for careers in the following areas: Air Steward/Stewardess, Air Traffic Controller, Au Pair, Bilingual Secretary, Business, Careers in Export, Chef, Courier, Hotel Management, Hotel Receptionist, Human Resources, International Marketing, Importer, Interpreter, Journalist, Librarian, Translator, International Driver, Ground Hostess, Pilot, Tourism, Travel Agent, Work in the Department of Foreign Affairs, etc.



Spanish

Course Content

The course is divided into two broad categories: language and culture. Students build on the language skills developed in Junior Cycle Spanish through the exploration of a variety of every day situations and topics, which enhance the skills of listening, reading, comprehension and writing in Spanish. Students are also introduced to many aspects of Spanish culture such as literature, cinema, art and music.

Assessment

The Leaving Cert. examination comprises three sections:

- **Oral Exam** - 25% in H.L, 20% in O.L.
- **Aural Exam** - 20% in H.L, 25% in O.L.
- **Written Exam** on reading comprehension and writing ability - 55%

Careers

Spanish can be useful for careers in the following areas: Air Steward/Stewardess, Air Traffic Controller, Au Pair, Bilingual Secretary, Business, Careers in Export, Chef, Courier, Hotel Management, Hotel Receptionist, Human Resources, International Marketing, Importer, Interpreter, Journalist, Librarian, Translator, International Driver, Ground Hostess, Pilot, Tourism, Travel Agent, Work in the Department of Foreign Affairs, etc.



Science Group

- Students should be aware that a science subject is required for most science and medicine courses (NB To study Medicine you must have at least 1 science subject). You also require science for most engineering, pharmaceutical and dietetics programmes.
- However, some science and engineering faculties (particularly in IT colleges) do not require a science subject and therefore students who find science difficult should consider other subject choices.
- Consult your Guidance Counsellor for further information and assistance.

Biology

Course Content

“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 are provided with the knowledge, skills and understanding to pursue further education, training and employment in biology-related fields, and to make judgments on contemporary issues in biology and science that impact on their daily lives and on society.”

DES 2001

The syllabus consists of approximately 70% biological knowledge, understanding and skills; the remaining 30% deals with the technological, political, social and economic aspects of Biology. The Biology course is a long and detailed one. It requires significant learning and as such is demanding of student time and effort. I

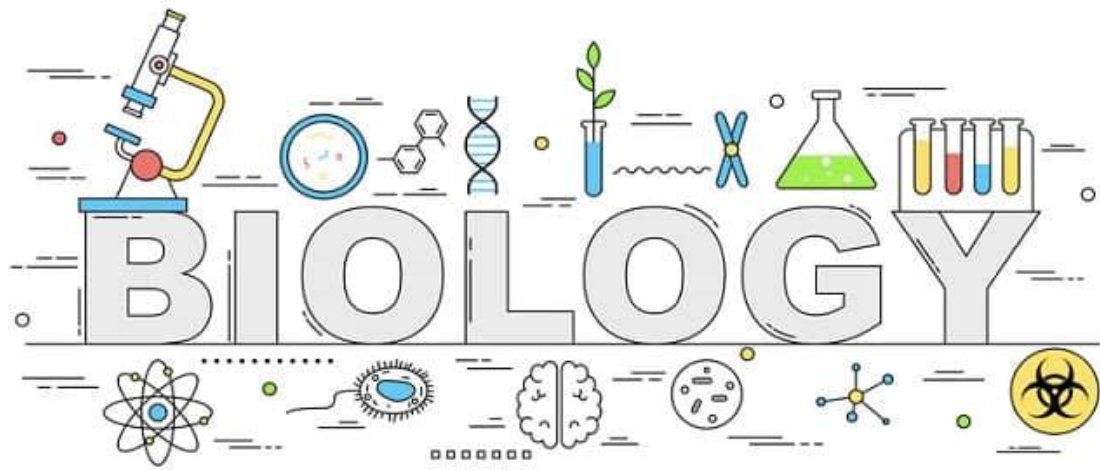
Assessment

Written exam only in 3 areas:

- (1) study of life;
- (2) the cell;
- (3) the organism with 22 mandatory activities.

Careers

Biology is a good foundation for careers in human biology, ecology, environmental biology, cell and molecular biology and in applied areas such as forestry, wildlife, food processing and biotechnology. Biology also is an excellent foundation for students planning to attend medical, dental, veterinary, chiropractic, physical therapy, physician's assistant, beautician or optometry schools.



Physics and Chemistry

Physics and Chemistry is an experimental and practical subject and practical work by students is regarded as an integral part of the course. A list of suitable experiments to be undertaken by students is included in each section of the syllabus.

Assessment

Leaving Certificate Physics and Chemistry is examined at two levels - Ordinary and Higher level. Assessment is by terminal examination paper. Higher-level candidates are expected to demonstrate a greater depth of understanding than are Ordinary level candidates. Records of practical work done by students are kept and made available for inspection.

Careers

Computers, Dentist, Doctors, Engineering, Geophysicist, health Inspector, Marine Radio Operator, medical Laboratory Technician, Meteorologist, Nurse, Optician, Pharmacist, Science Teacher, Scientific Research, Chemist, Dairy Scientist, Laboratory Assistant, Physiotherapist, Biotechnology, Quality Control, Forensic Science, Science Laboratory Technician.



Arts Group

A portfolio will probably be needed for entry to a Third Level Art Course. Art is acceptable in place of the language requirement for students entering NCAD

Art

Course Content

An aptitude for self-directed research skills, an appreciation for Art History and a sound understanding of the design process is essential for Senior Level Art.

Leaving Certificate art is made up of four units linked together and based on the everyday visual experience of the student's own environment. The practical work can include Life Sketching, Still Life, Imaginative Composition, Design and Craftwork. Students also study the History and Appreciation of Art, which covers Irish and European Art, and Art Appreciation. This syllabus is for students in the senior cycle of post-primary education and is assessed at Ordinary and Higher levels.

Assessment

- Written examination in Art History and Appreciation
- Life drawing and sketching exam
- Choice between Art Design exam and an Art Craft Work exam
- 50% of coursework is a project completed over 10 weeks in final year

Careers

Art is either necessary or useful for the following careers: Advertising, Art Teacher, Architecture, Beautician, Cosmetics Consultant, Crafts, Fashion, Florist, Furniture Design, Gallery and Museum Work, Graphic Design, Hairdresser, Interior Design, Marketing, Occupational Therapist, Painting and Decorating, Photography, Picture Restorer, Primary Teacher, Printing and Publishing, Sign Writer, Textile Design, Television work, Video Production.

Music

Course Content

The syllabus caters for all musical styles; traditional, ethnic, classical, jazz, rock, pop, etc. The structure of the syllabus has been changed to allow students to specialise in the activity that best suits their talents.

The course divides into three categories:

- Practical (including Computer Technology)
- Composition and Harmony
- Listening (Aural Work)

Students specialise in either Performance, Composition, or Listening which is worth 50% of the total Leaving Cert mark.

Assessment

- Practical Exam - can be up to 50%
- Listening and Written Exam - 50%

Career Options

Music is useful for careers in the following areas: Actor, Aerobics instructor, Arranger, Composer, Dancer, Disc Jockey, Entertainment, Film Studies, Folklore Studies, Instrument Maker, Library Work, Music Shop Sales, Sound Engineering, Speech Therapy, Music Therapy, Occupational Therapist, Physical Education, Primary/Secondary Teacher, etc.



Business Studies Group

Business

Course Content

The subject is concerned with understanding the environment in which business operates. Syllabus at LC touches on every aspect of modern human society. Topics include Contract & Consumer Law, Insurance, Banking & Finance, Stakeholders in Business, Management Activities & Skills, Marketing, Human Resource Management, International Trade, Global Businesses, The EU & EU policy, Taxation, analysis of financial performance of Business, case studies on Irish and International companies.

Assessment

100% Written Exam

Careers

Business is useful for careers in a wide range of areas including Banking, Finance, Administration, Law, Insurance, Management and Marketing among others.



Accounting

Course Content

You learn how to prepare Business Final Accounts, Club Accounts, Cash Accounts, Cash Flow Statements, Published Accounts and Accounts from Incomplete Records.

You learn Management Accounting. This involves business day to day planning and planning for the future using Costing and Budgets. You learn to analyse and comment on financial records.

Assessment

It is 100% written three-hour exam

Career Options

Career pathways might include accountancy, actuarial studies, marketing, business or finance. It would also be an important subject choice for those thinking of starting their own business



Applied Science Group

It is possible to do Social and Scientific as a Leaving Cert. subject without having done Home Economics at Junior Cert. Although Home Economics is not a laboratory science subject, it does satisfy the entrance requirement for many beauty therapy courses.

Home Economics **(Social and Scientific)**

Course Content

This is a continuation of Junior Certificate Home Economics. The syllabus consists of a core and three electives. The core consists of three areas: Food Studies (45%), Resource Management and Consumer Studies (25%) and Social Studies (10%). There are three electives from which the teacher and the class group must choose one. The electives are extensions of content contained in the core and provide students with the opportunity to study certain topics in more depth. The elective must be chosen from Home Design and Management; Textiles, Fashion and Design; or Social Studies and is worth 20%.

Assessment

Students are required to complete a food studies journal worth 20% of the overall Leaving Certificate grade.

Written Exam is 80% of final marks

Career Opportunities

Career opportunities from Home Economics Social and Scientific include: Promotional and Educational opportunities; Food and Nutritional Sciences; Food Technology/Analysis; Environmental Health; Human Nutrition and Dietetics; Hotel Catering opportunities; Textile Studies/Interior Design; Marketing/Retailing/Advertising.

Physical Education

The aim of Leaving Certificate Physical Education is to develop the learner's capacity to become an informed, skilled, self-directed and reflective performer in physical education and physical activity in senior cycle and in their future life.

The subject will comprise of theory classes in the classroom and some practical classes.

[Please click on this link for a presentation which will give you an overview of the subject.](#)

Assessment

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

Careers

This subject would be useful to have for any students considering a career in health and fitness, sports management or coaching.



Practical Group

Construction Studies

Course Content

Construction Studies gives students an opportunity to learn the basic principles of the construction & Engineering industry, from the design of a house to the planning permission stages right through to finishing stages such as plumbing & electrical etc.

Assessment

It is examined in 3 sections;

50% written exam (theory exam)

25% Day test (4 hr exam where students must undertake a practical assignment)

25% Project (this begins at the start of 6th yr and can be anything from the study of ancient architecture to the manufacture of a piece of furniture)

Career Opportunities

Construction Studies can be useful for careers in the following areas :
Architecture, Auctioneering, Bricklaying, Construction Studies Teacher, Building Management, Carpenter, Civil and Structural Engineer, Electrician, Environmental Designer, Fire Fighter, Heating and Ventilation Technician, Insurance, Metal Work Teacher, Painter and Decorator, Plasterer, Quantity Surveyor, Site Clerk, Technical Sales, Town and County Planning, etc.



Humanities

Geography

Course Content

The Leaving Certificate Geography programme involves both fieldwork and a written exam. The final exam combines short questions, map work and questions on topics such as natural disasters, plate tectonics and river studies. Students will also study population growth and distribution, migration and urban challenges facing people in the modern world.

Assessment

- Ordinary Level: short answer questions and multi part questions
- Higher Level: short answer questions, multi part question and essay type questions
- Both levels will have separate written exam papers –80%
- 20% for report on Geographical Investigation

Career Opportunities

Geography is useful for careers in the following areas: Agriculture, Air Traffic Controller, Anthropologist, Architecture, Archaeology, Cartographer, Civil Engineering, Construction, Conservation Work, Courier, Development Work Abroad, Estate Agent, Forestry, Geologist, Geography Teacher, Guide, Horticulture, International Driver, Market Research, Marine Officer, Meteorology, Mineralogy, Pilot, Statistics, Surveying, Town and County Planning, etc



Careers

Examples of subject combinations for 3rd Level

Arts:

- Subjects required for Maynooth University:
 - English
 - Irish
 - Third Language
 - Any 3 other subjects

Computer Engineer:

- Subjects required for Engineering in I.T. Blanchardstown:
 - Irish or English
 - Maths
 - 4 other subjects

Medicine:

- Subjects required for Trinity College:
 - Maths
 - English
 - Irish (or another language)
 - Chemistry
 - Biology or Physics
 - Any other subject

Sports Scientist:

- Subjects required for Sports Science and Health at DCU:
 - Maths
 - English or Irish
 - 1 Science subject
 - Any 3 other subjects

Please note for primary school teaching you must study Higher Level Irish.

Leaving Cert Applied **(LCA)**

What is the LCA?

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a two-year Leaving Certificate, available to students who wish to follow a practical or vocationally orientated programme.

The word “applied” is used because the programme is designed to allow the students to apply the learning and experiences they gain over the two years of the programme to practical educational tasks, at school, in the workplace and in the wider community.

What is different about the LCA?

The Leaving Certificate Applied is different in a number of ways:

- It is distinct from the established leaving cert and is a self contained programme made up of a number of courses
- It is a practical programme that makes wide use of active and student centred learning methodologies
- It includes seven assessed student tasks that bring together the different learning experiences that the students have gained from the courses they have taken
- It uses a unique system of assessment. The students’ work is assessed over the two years of the programme and they gain credits as they go along. Practicals, interviews and terminal written papers are among the different forms of assessment used. The students’ communication, problem solving and practical skills are also assessed.

LCA course outline

The programme is divided into three main highlighted in the table below.

- Each of the courses mentioned are designed on a modular basis.
- A module is of thirty hours duration.
- Students must take a **total of 44 modules** over the two-year programme.

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Vocational Preparation | No. of Modules |
| • Vocational Preparation & Guidance | 8 |
| • English and Communication | 4 |
| 2. Vocational Education | No. of Modules |
| • Vocational Specialism's (Office Administration and Engineering or Craft and Design) | 8 (4 x 2) |
| • Mathematical Applications | 4 |
| • Introduction to Information and Communication Technology | 2 |
| 3. General Education | No. of Modules |
| • Social Education | 6 |
| • Languages: | |
| Gaeilge | 2 |
| Modern European Language | 2 |
| | (4) |
| • Arts Education (Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Arts) | 2 |
| • Leisure and Recreation (including Physical Education) | 2 |
| 4. Elective Modules | No. of Modules |
| • Graphics and Construction | 2 |
| Hotel, Catering and Tourism | 2 |
| | (4) |
| Total | 44 |

How is the LCA assessed?

As students complete their LCA course work they collect credits. In other words the LCA adopts a continual assessment approach.

It is possible to collect a total of 200 credits. The maximum mark is made up of the following 3 elements:

| | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. Satisfactory completion of Modules | 62 Credits | (31%) |
| <i>(See table above for modules)</i> | | |
| 2. 7 Student tasks | 70 Credits | (35%) |
| <i>(Tasks are completed in various subjects. Students must submit a report and sit an interview with an external examiner for each task)</i> | | |
| 3. Final examinations | 68 Credits | (34%) |
| <i>(Written exams conducted along with the Established Leaving Cert.)</i> | | |
| Total | 200 credits | (100%) |

Results

Based on these credits, the Leaving Certificate is then awarded at 3 levels:

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------|------------|
| Pass | 120 - 139 credits | (60-69 %) |
| Merit | 140 - 169 credits | (70-84 %) |
| Distinction | 170 - 200 credits | (85-100 %) |

Please note that attendance is hugely important.

An average attendance of 90% is necessary before exam grades can be awarded

What are students' options upon completing the LCA programme?

There are a number of options available to students including the following:

- **Further Education:**
Graduates of the Leaving Certificate Applied do not have direct access to Higher Education through the Central Applications Office (CAO).
However, graduates of the Leaving Certificate Applied who progress to an appropriate further education award (i.e. a Post Leaving Cert qualification) can become eligible for admission to some third level courses in the Institutes of Technology and following that to some degree courses in the Institutes of Technology and in the Universities.
E.g. Nursing
A student who completes the LCA can apply to complete a 'Pre Nursing' PLC course in Dunboyne College of Further Education. If a student achieves the required grades then they are then eligible to study General Nursing in DCU.
- **Training:**
LCA graduates will be sufficiently prepared to take up an apprenticeship with FAS
- **Careers:**
The programme places particular emphasis on preparation for the world of work. This Leaving Certificate is generating a good degree of interest among employers, who regard Leaving Certificate Applied students as being eligible to apply for many career vacancies in their organisations

7: Summary

Hopefully after reading this booklet, you are ready to take the next step and choose which Senior Cycle Module you wish to pursue. Below is a summary of the selection process:

Senior Cycle Options

Step 1

- **Students in 3rd year** can opt for 1 of the below:
 - a) TY
 - b) Established Leaving Cert
- **Students in TY** can opt for 1 of the below:
 - a) Established Leaving Cert
 - b) Leaving Cert Applied

Step 2

- **Students who choose to take LCA must do the following:**
 - fill out the relevant **application form**
 - indicate what **subjects** they would like to take if they were to do the Established Leaving Certificate
- **Students who choose Established Leaving Cert must do the following:**
 - Choose **4 subjects**

Step 3

- **Return Application Form**

Useful Websites

- www.qualifax.ie
 - Database of all Post Leaving Cert and 3rd level courses in Ireland
- www.careersportal.com
 - Excellent careers website featuring videos of people currently working in selected careers
- Contacts for any queries you may have
Talk to your Guidance Counsellor or Year Head

Leaving Certificate CAO Points System

The Department of Education and Skills have introduced a new Leaving Certificate grading scale. The new scale has 8 grades, the highest grade is a Grade 1, and the lowest grade is a Grade 8.

- Points are awarded based on the **highest 6 grades**
- Maximum points = 600
- Student who undertake Higher Level Maths will be eligible to achieve 625 points

| Grade | Points | Grade | Points | Higher Maths Incl. Bonus | LCVP |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| H1 | = 100 | O1 | = 56 | H1 = 125 | Distinction: 80% + = 66 |
| H2 | = 88 | O2 | = 46 | H2 = 113 | |
| H3 | = 77 | O3 | = 37 | H3 = 102 | Merit: 65% + = 46 |
| H4 | = 66 | O4 | = 28 | H4 = 91 | |
| H5 | = 56 | O5 | = 20 | H5 = 81 | Pass: 50% + = 28 |
| H6 | = 46 | O6 | = 12 | H6 = 71 | |
| H7 | = 37 | O7 | = 0 | H7 = 0 | |
| H8 | = 0 | O8 | = 0 | H8 = 0 | |

Good luck to all our students in the decision making process!

Notes: