

Athboy Community School Traditional Leaving C ertificate Information Evening



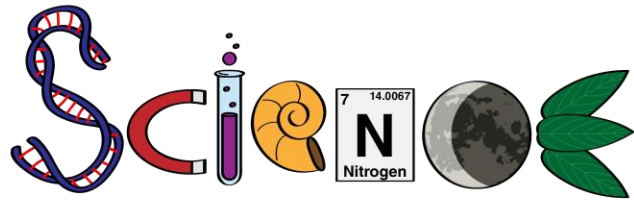
7 February 2024



Core Subjects for the Leaving Certificate Exam

- English
- Irish
- Maths

Options



Biology

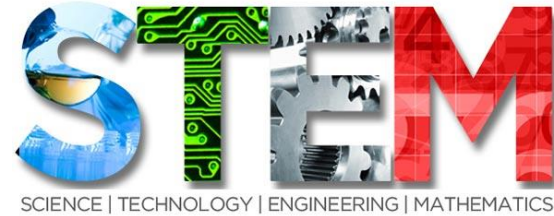
Physics

Chemistry

Computer Science

Leaving Cert PE

Agricultural Science



Construction

Engineering

Design Communication Graphics

Options (2)



Art
Music
History
Geography

Social, Language & Enterprise

**HOME
ECONOMICS**



Leaving Cert Biology?



- Students explore the diversity of life and the inter-relationships between organisms and their environment.
- It requires a lot of memory work and attention to detail .
- The course uses practical activity and investigation to develop skills and knowledge. It covers the study of plants & animals as well as molecular biology & biotechnology.
- Careers: Veterinary, Medicine, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Teacher, Microbiology and Zoology
- The examination at Higher & Ordinary level is three hours duration.
- Would strongly recommend JC Science.

Leaving Cert Chemistry 180 hours

Core Topics Include:

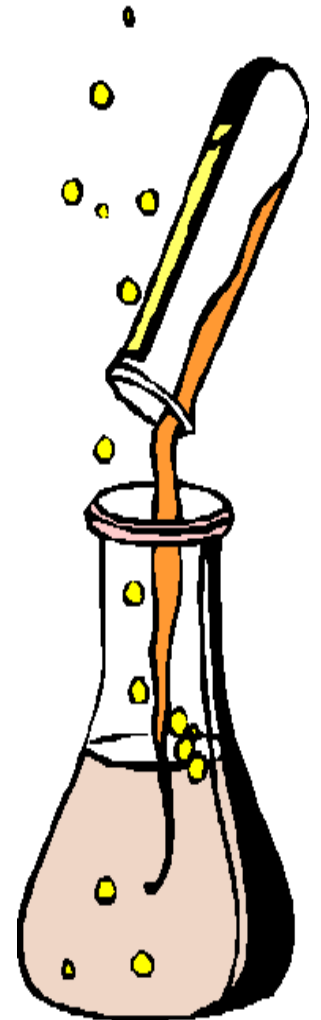
Periodic Table, Atomic Structure, Chemical Bonding, Volumetric analysis, Organic Chemistry and Rates of reaction.

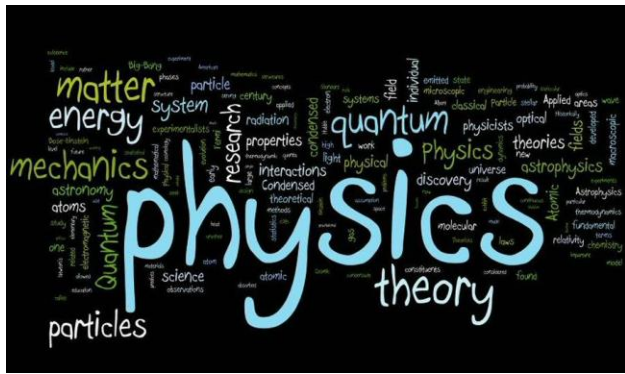
What is required to study Chemistry?

If your hard working, you like to figure things out and have good general interest in science.

Careers

Health, Beauty products, Food industry, Forensics and Pharmaceutical industry just to mention a few





is the study of how the world around us works.

Topics

Mechanics

Heat

Optics & Waves

Electricity

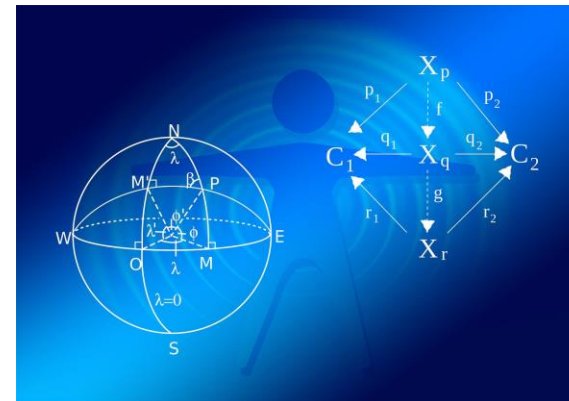
Magnetism

Modern/Nuclear Physics

Who can study Physics?

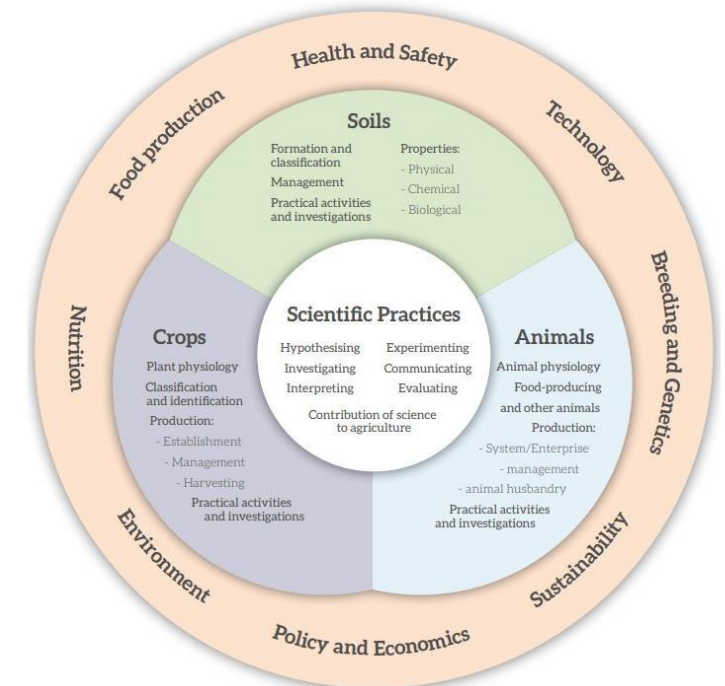
Anyone who is taking Ordinary or Higher Level Maths can study Physics.

There are 22 experiments and a three hour exam for Leaving Cert.



Leaving Cert Agricultural Science

- **Core areas of study:-**
 - Soils, Crops, Animals
 - Specific Practical Activities (SPA)
 - Individual Investigative study (IIS)
- **Exam**
 - Written Exam - 75%
 - Short answer questions
 - Structured questions
 - Synoptic questions
 - IIS - 25%



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*



HOW IS LCPE ASSESSED

50% Written Exam

20 % Performance Assessment

30% Physical Activity Project



Links to career paths:

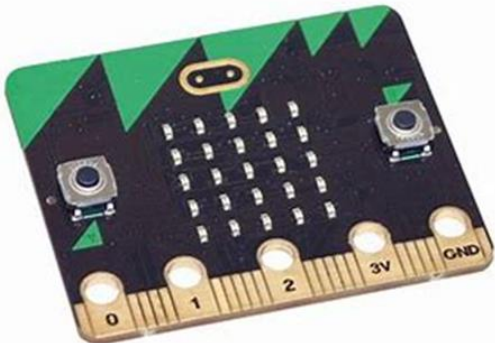
Sports Science
Physical Education
Leisure and recreation courses
Media studies
Physio Therapy
Personal Trainer Courses

COMPUTER SCIENCE

What will I study?

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Each learning outcome is achieved through an interweaving of all three strands, and through a balance of theoretical learning, applied learning (through both the four applied learning tasks and tasks set by the teacher), problem-based learning and project management.



Computational thinking - solve problems by creating your own programs

The positive and negative roles of technology in society

The history of computers & computing

Software development and design

Creating websites

4 Applied Learning Tasks

ASSESSMENT BREAKDOWN:

30% Project - completed over 12 weeks

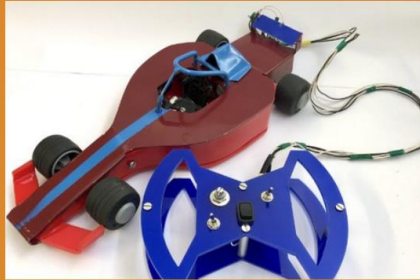
70% Final exam - 45% Theory, 25% Coding

WHAT IS ENGINEERING?



A student will enjoy this subject if they:

- Like working with their hands and Machines
- Enjoy drawing and sketching
- Want to make and build projects
- Are interested in how technologies work.



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



How is Engineering Assessed

Project 25-30%

Day Practical Exam 25-30%

Written Exam 40-50%

An engineer is a professional with a broad scientific knowledge who applies this knowledge in a practical, creative and innovative way.

Engineers are experts in technology.

They design and produce solutions to society's demands.



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



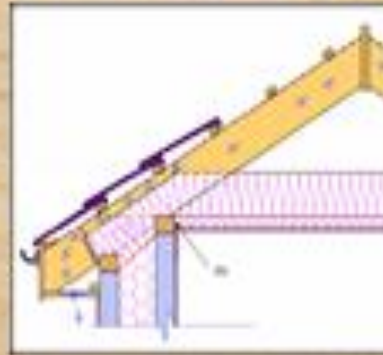
CONSTRUCTION STUDIES



Mahogany & Yellow Pine Table



Examples of Practical Test



Question 1 Theory Test



Sun Tracking Solar Furnace



Laminated Birch Rocking Chair

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



Oak Model of Viking House

Design and Communication Graphics

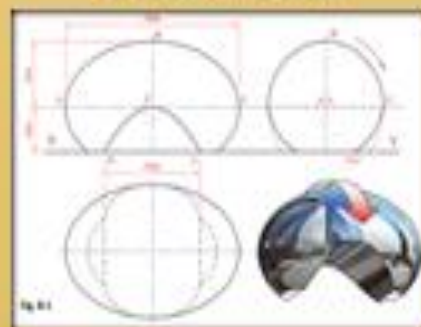


Design Sketch - Drone

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

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 - Lectern



Computer Model - Clock



Computer Model - Drinks Bottle

Geography

So is it for you... ?

- A lot of learning but not abstract.
- Diagrams important but being especially good at art is not necessary.
- There's a practical element to it -maps, photos, graphs
- If you like it at Junior Cert Level...
- Interested in surveying, weather, mining, tourism, statistics, environmental work, city/town planning, farming, politics, economics, mapping etc



Physical Geography	25% at Ordinary Level 20% at Honours level
Regional Geography	25% at Ordinary level 20% at Honours level
Human Geography	25% at Ordinary level 20% at Honours level
Geoecology	20% at Honours level ONLY
Field Trip	25% at Ordinary level 20% at Honours level
Geographical Skills	Maps, Aerial photos, graphs





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.

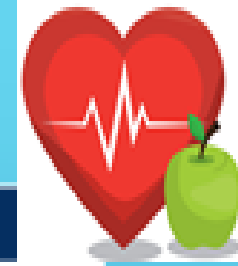
What careers it's useful for: Archeologist, Librarian, Broadcast journalist, Human resources, Musuem education officer/gallery curator, Solicitor, Heritage worker, Secondary school teacher and many more.

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.

Home

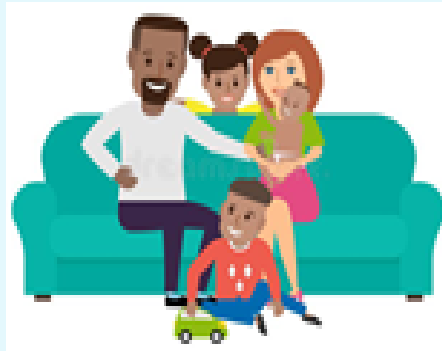
HOME ECONOMICS:



Overview:

Overview:

LC Home Economics is a great all-round subject that covers many topics relevant to our everyday lives.



It is mainly **theory based** at Leaving Certificate level. There is much less practical work than at Junior Certificate level.

Assessment:

Coursework: 20%

There is coursework worth 20% of your overall grade which is mostly done in 5th year and involves some practical cookery.

Written Exam: 80%

Higher and Ordinary Level available.



Topics:

Some topics covered at Leaving Cert include:

- 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



German



- German is spoken in **Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Lichtenstein**
- Over **96 million people** worldwide speak German as their mother tongue
- Germany is the **third largest exporter** in the world and ranks as the **number 1** economy in the EU and the **fourth largest** economy in the world
- Approximately **800** German companies are currently operating in Ireland

Overview

The syllabus builds on the knowledge of JC German , with a greater emphasis on oral skills ,and aims towards the following outcomes:

- Ability to communicate in German through writing and speaking
- Language and cultural awareness
- Understanding and expressing feelings, attitudes and opinions

Related Careers

Any occupation in Germany, Switzerland and Austria:

Communication
Journalism
I.T. Consultant
Travel/Tourism
Business/Computing

Culture/Heritage
Hospitality
Engineering/Manufacturing
Translator/Interpreter
Politics/EU

Educator
Science





French

Overview:

French at Leaving Cert builds on the knowledge of Junior Cycle French, with a greater emphasis on oral skills. It can be studied at Higher and Ordinary Level.

French would suit the student who:

- enjoys learning about other cultures
- is interested in understanding how language is used to communicate with others.

Careers:

Business, Working in the EU, Tourism, Teaching.

A European language is required for entry into many degree courses in NUI colleges (Maynooth, UCD, UCC, Galway University)



ART

Leaving Certificate Art aims to develop in learners the **knowledge, 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



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.

3D CRAFT EXAMPLES



4TH YEAR ART

It would be recommended that students have undertaken Art at Junior Cycle. However, all TY students will engage with our Art program and prepare some samples of artwork before Senior Cycle.

MUSIC



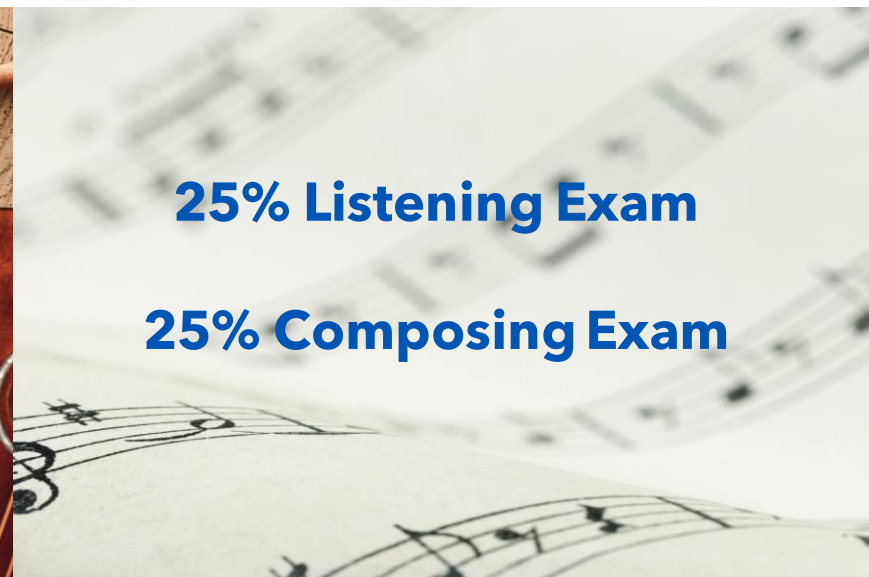
72% of students achieve a grade of H3 or above.

99.5% achieve a grade of H6 or above.

Course Breakdown



**50%
Practical/Technology**



**25% Listening Exam
25% Composing Exam**

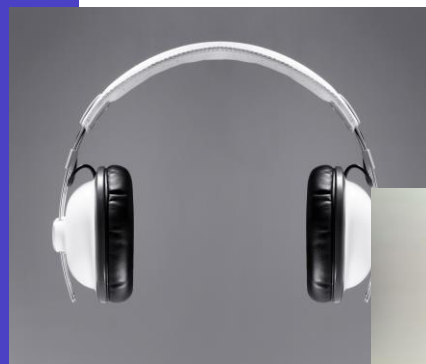
Can I do music if I didn't do it for my Junior cert?

Yes IF

You can play an instrument or sing

AND

You can read Music



Business

- Leaving Certificate business creates an awareness of the importance of business activity and develops a positive and ethical attitude towards enterprise.
- Business will suit a candidate who is interested in current affairs and listens to the news, reads the papers and stays alert to what is happening in the general business world.
- While there is a fair share of learning of key concepts the ability to apply these concepts in everyday life will be the difference between passing the subject and getting a good mark.
- This subject suits someone who has an organised mind and likes to answer questions in bullet points, rather than in long essay format.
- Course content is factual and requires a lot of learning, containing only a few mathematical elements.



Accounting



Provides students with skills for managing personal and basic company accounts . May of interest to students who want to start up their own business.



The learning experiences in accounting develop students' organisational, logical thinking, planning and problem-solving skills for their future life, work and study.



Commonly seen as the mathematical side of business, accounting attracts the more numerate student. Does not need HL Maths. Suitable for a hard working student.



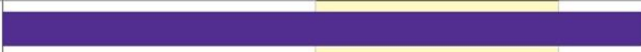



Assessed by written exam at HL & OL. Mainly accounts. JC Business Studies good foundation but not essential.

CAT-4 Results - Student Profile

Group: incoming 2022			
Date of test:	Level: E	Age:	Sex:

Profile

Verbal	
Quantitative	
Non-verbal	
Spatial	

Summary

profile of scores from CAT4 suggests he may have a slight preference for learning that uses visual images – pictures, diagrams, moving images, etc. rather than learning by reading, writing and talking about topics.

- should use online resources, videos and books with plenty of pictures to help remember key facts and information.
- may find much of his schoolwork difficult.
- Does find reading and maths difficult? If so, he may need some extra help working at home under guidance from school.
- When you are helping with homework, make sure that understands each step of the task before moving on. It is important that learns at a pace that is right for him.
- Tell to ask the teacher to explain anything that is not clear.

X is likely to enjoy and do well in Science, Technology, Design and Geography but, by applying techniques that suit her learning preference, she should do well in a range of subjects

Why seven subjects?



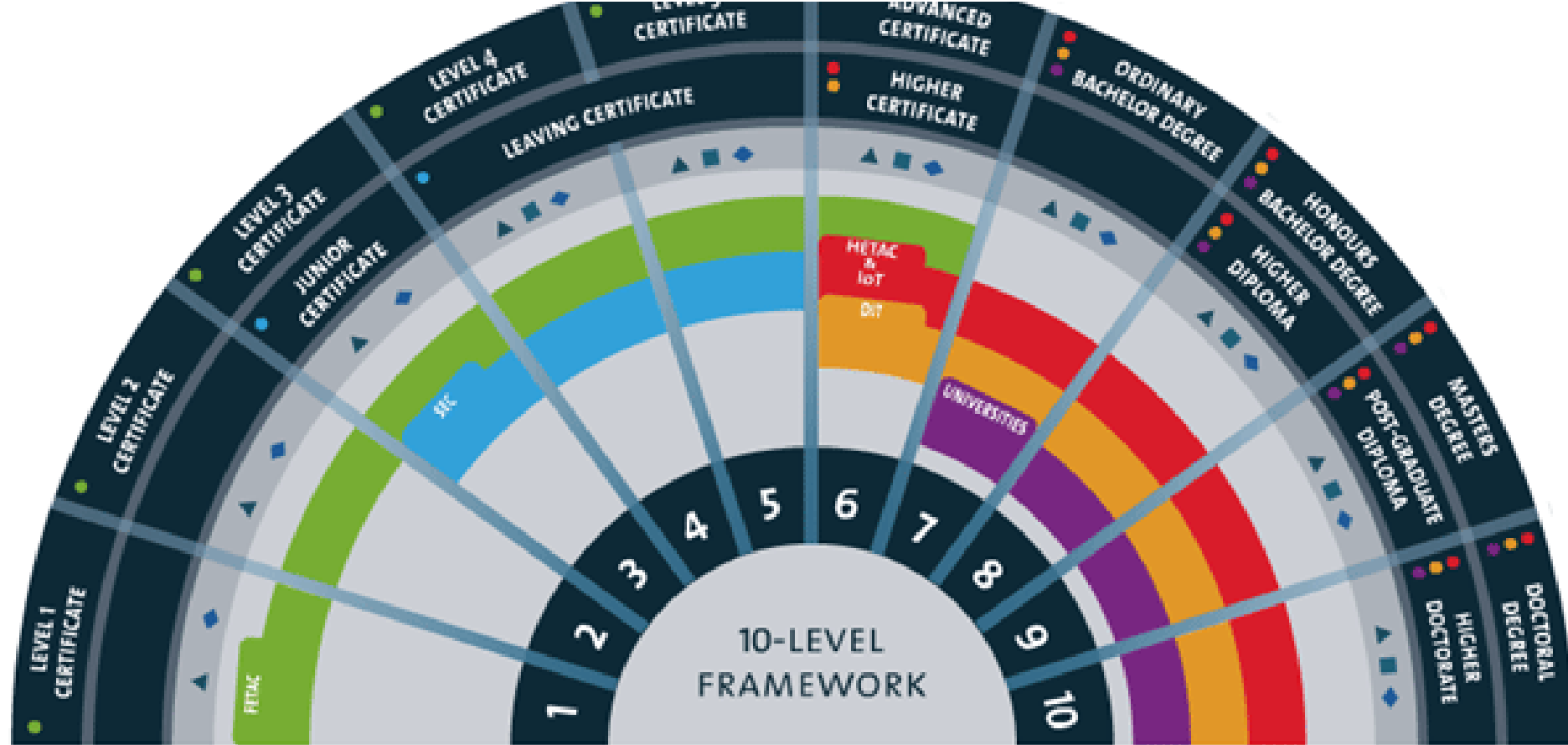
- CAO (Central Application Office) awards points based on the best SIX subjects
- The seventh subject can be a safety net &
- The timetable is structured on all students studying seven subjects
- All students do Leaving Vocational Programme which is composed of a portfolio and an exam in May of 6th Year.

National Framework Of Qualifications

The 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.

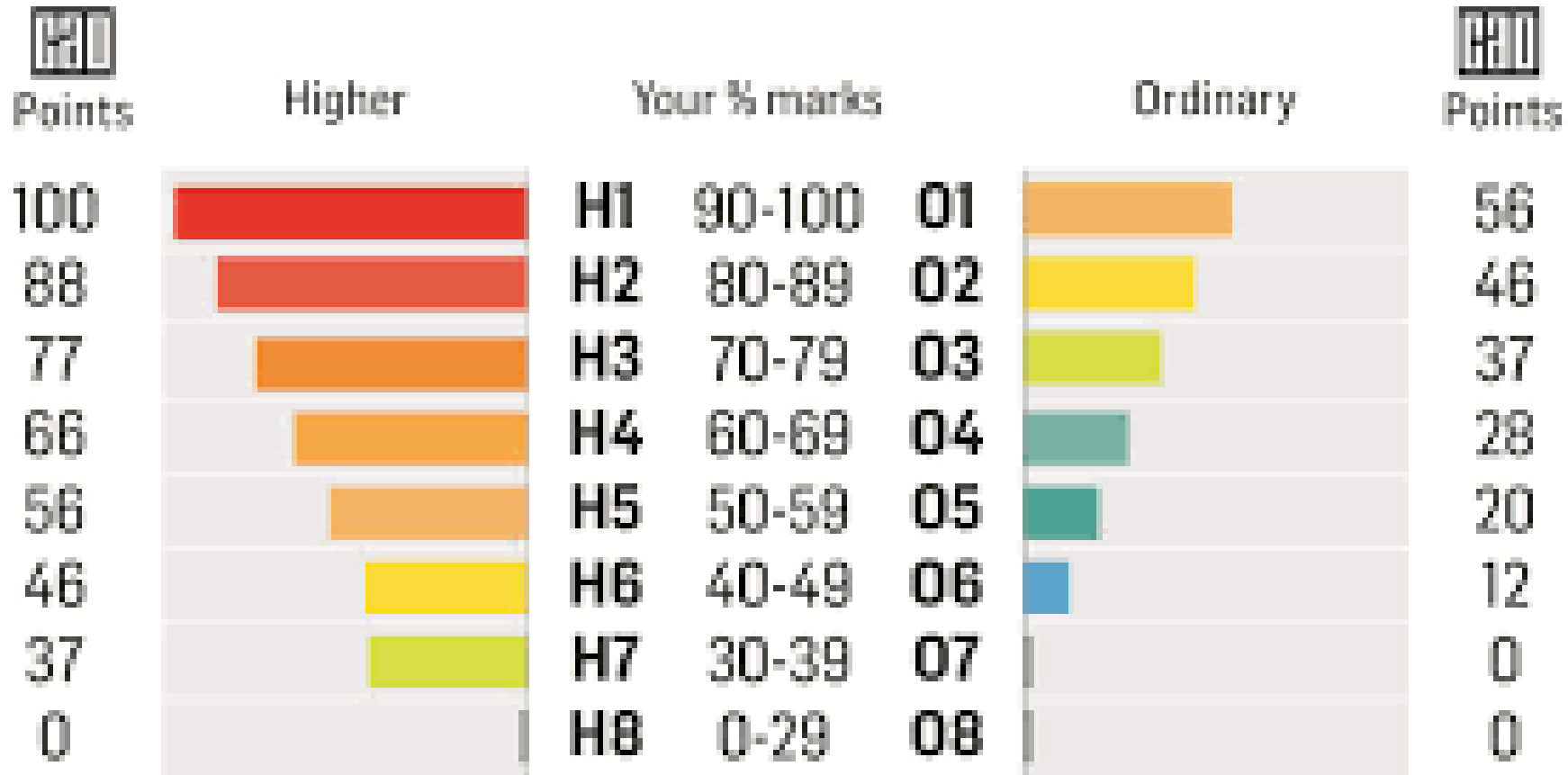
QQI Framework



© NQAI 2009

- Junior Cert = Level 3
- LCA = Level 4
- LC HL = Level 5

Grading System in Senior Cycle



+25 Bonus points for H1-H6 maths

LCVP link modules

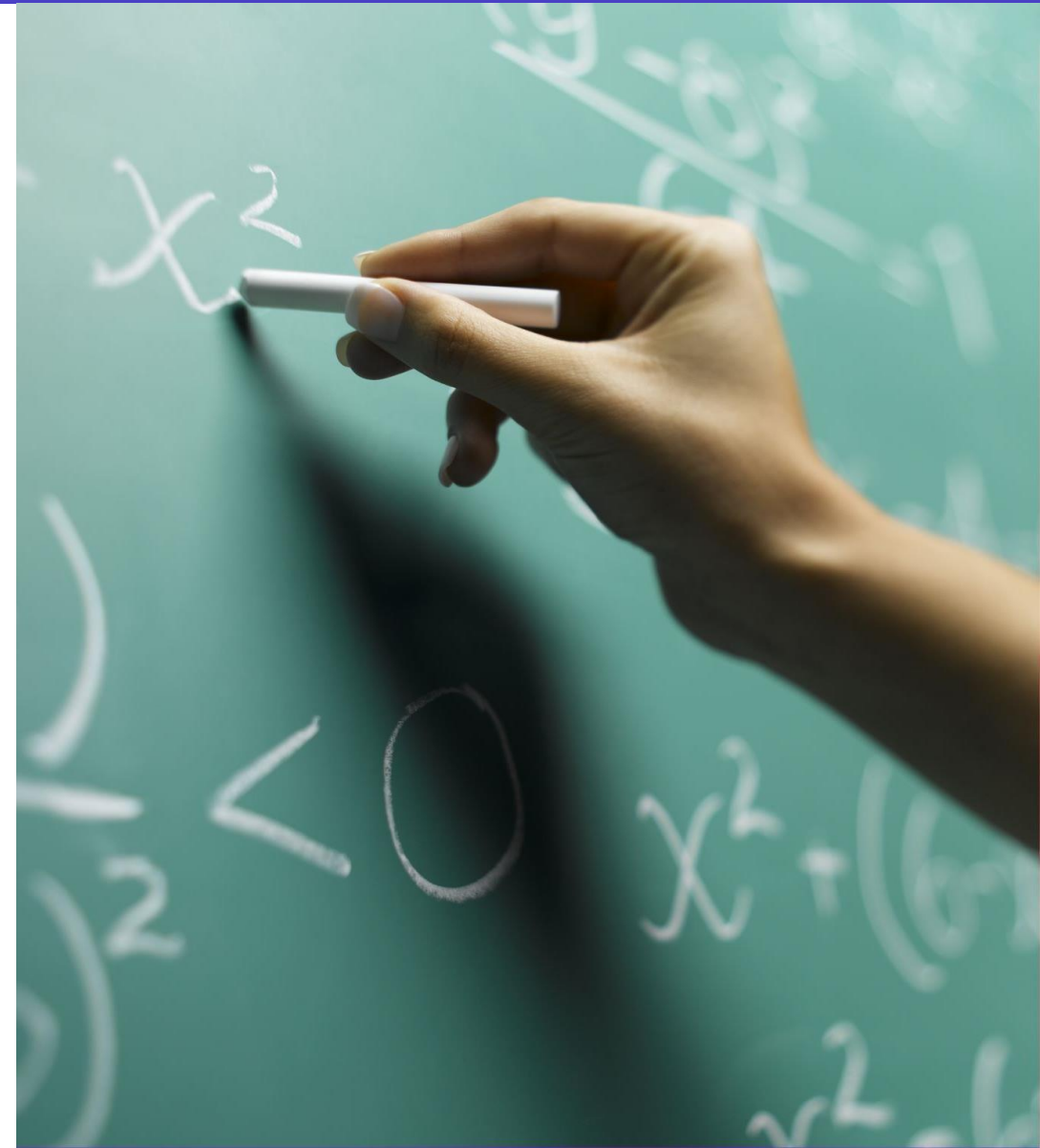
Distinction 66

Merit 46

Pass 28

Sample Grades/CAO Points

- Student A gets 6 passes in the Leaving Cert in Ordinary Level Subjects = 6×12 points = 72 points
- Student B gets 6 passes in the Leaving Cert in Higher Level subjects = 6×46 points = 276 points
- Student C gets 3 H3s and three O3s = 342 points



Minimum Entry Requirements

These are the basic grades a student needs to achieve in certain subjects in their Leaving Certificate

Different universities have different minimum entry requirements

Example: Pharmacy in Trinity College Dublin: A HC3 in Chemistry and a HC3 in either Physics, Biology, Mathematics, Geography

Post Leaving Cert Courses

Over 200 Further Education colleges in Ireland

Offer courses at QQI Level 5 & 6 at reduced cost

One year courses which provide real qualifications

A huge variety of courses

You can switch courses

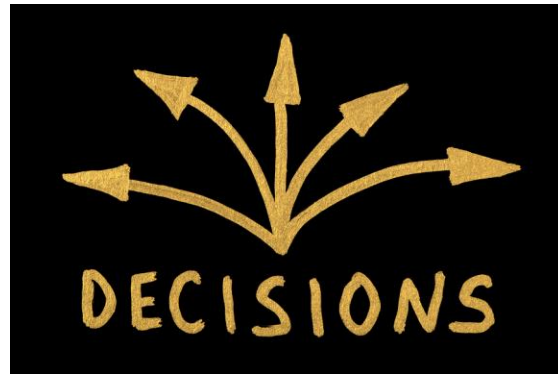
Dunboyne College FE

Dundalk College FE

Drogheda College FE

Can transfer to university if you do well in PLC

**When
deciding on
subjects,
consider...**



**Will this help
my future
career area?**

**Is the subject essential
or desirable for a
possible career?**

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

**Do I like this subject
/ Am I interested in
it?**

**What are
my skills
and
aptitudes?**

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

**Avoid this
Pattern of
Thinking**

This is a gender biased subject

None of my friends are doing this subject.

I don't get on with the teacher.

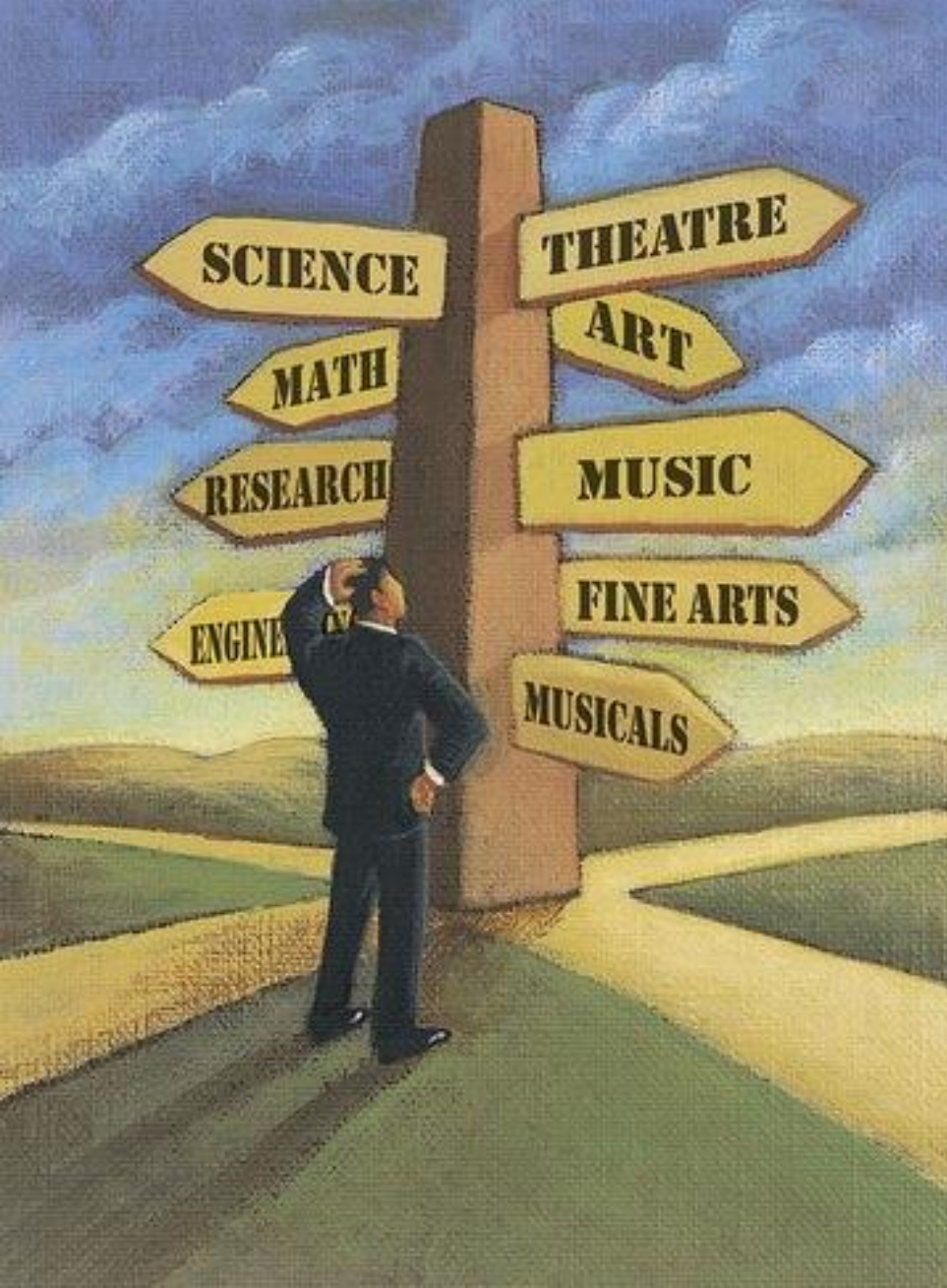
I'll do it because it's easy.

I hate the subject but I'll do it anyway in case I need it

What are easy subjects and what are difficult subjects?



- There are none!!
- A subject is only easy if you are good at it.



Closing Doors

- Not choosing the appropriate subjects can close doors at this stage.
- Find out the specific requirements needed for your area of interest.



But most importantly....

- Choose subjects that you ENJOY
- If you enjoy the subject the POINTS will come

What should I do next?

- Check out College Prospectuses, college websites and job descriptions before making your choice.
- Talk to your parents / guardians, family and teachers about your options.
- Visit relevant websites

www.cao.ie

www.qualifax.ie

www.careersportal.ie



Lastly....Class of 2026



Try

Try to work hard from the beginning of 5th year



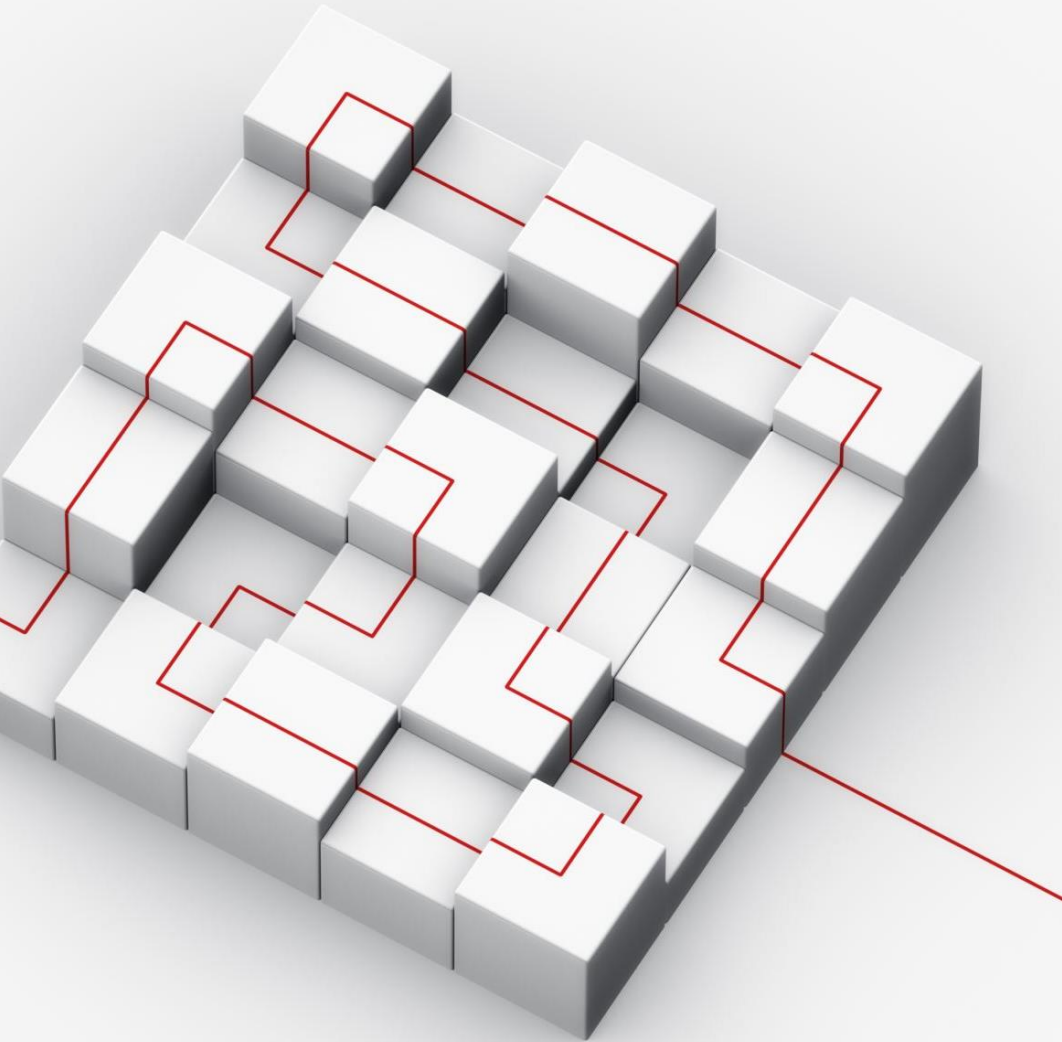
Remember

Remember that education happens outside of the classroom also- sport, drama, debating, leadership.



Remember

Remember we are your allies - help is available from Year head, Tutor, Guidance Counsellor, Principal, Deputy Principal, Subject Teachers and most importantly, each other!



Next Steps

- Complete the Expression of Interest Form
- Your preferences will be counted and subject option blocks will be created
- You will then choose four options, one from each block.
- Log into VS Ware via the VS Ware App and choose your options
- Options will be confirmed in March. You may not get all four options