

Athboy Community School



Traditional Leaving Certificate

Studying for the Traditional Leaving Certificate

Important Information for Students & Parents/Guardians

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

C. Will this help my future career?

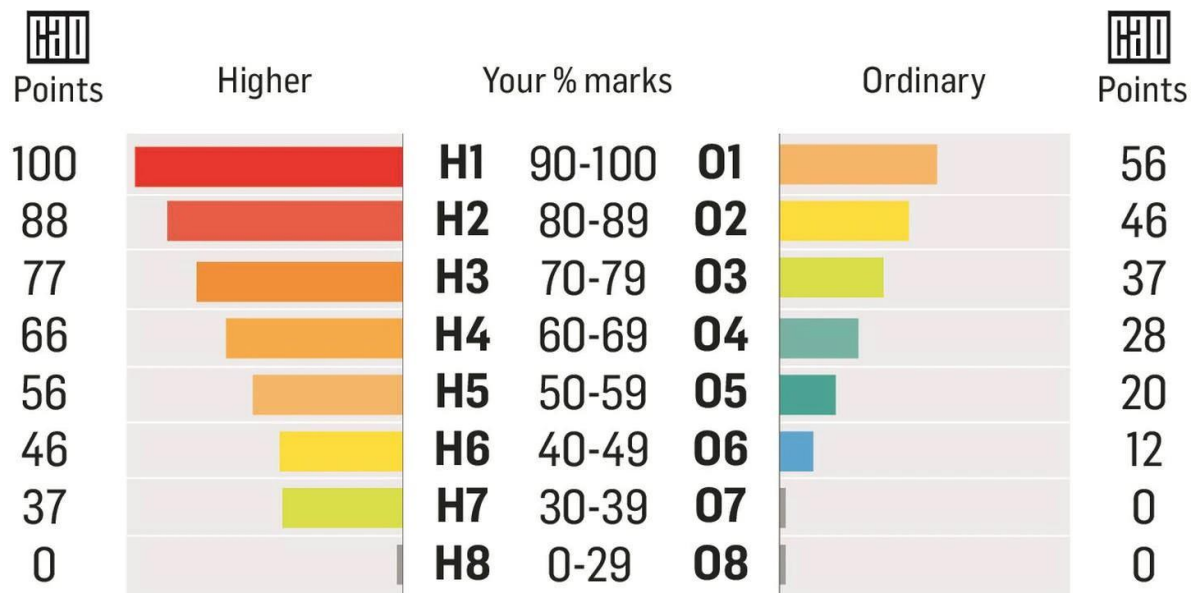
D. Is the subject *ESSENTIAL* or *DESIRABLE* for a certain career?

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

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

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

The Grading System for the Leaving Cert Exam

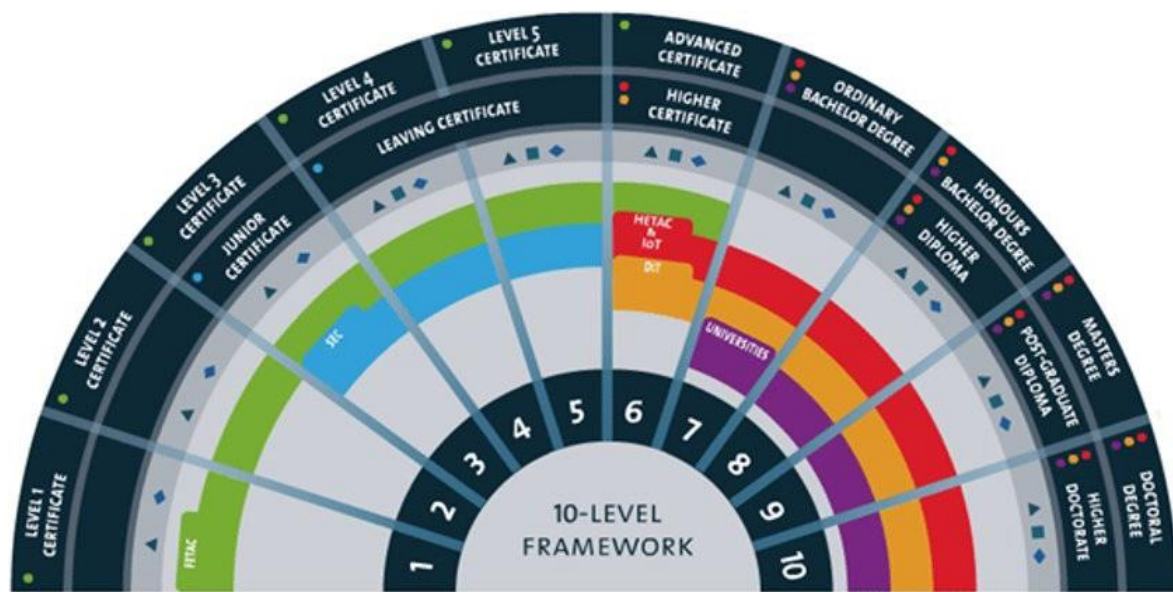


+25 Bonus points for H1-H6 maths

LCVP link modules Distinction 66 Merit 46 Pass 28

QQI Framework

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



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

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

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

Steps to Choosing Leaving Certificate Options in Athboy CS

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

LCVP

- LCVP students are required to take the Link Modules: Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education, over the two years of the programme. These modules are almost entirely activity driven.
- Link Module activities provide a setting in which connections can be made between vocational subjects and the world of work. All students will participate in work placement.
- Links with other option subjects which can enhance performance in those subjects.
- Promotes skills and qualities of self-reliance, innovation and enterprise. Transferable Skills.
- Assessment, which is at a common level, comprises two elements, a Terminal Examination Paper (40%) and a Portfolio of Coursework (60%)
- Grades for the Link Modules are awarded as follows:
 - Distinction (80 – 100%) Points awarded: 66
 - Merit (65 – 79%) Points awarded:46
 - Pass (50 – 64%) Points awarded:28



Option Subjects for the Leaving Certificate

Option subjects are based around the following themes:

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

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



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



- Art
- Music
- History

Social, Language & Enterprise

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

Subject Options in the World of STEM

1. Biology



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

Topics include:

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

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

2. Chemistry

Leaving Cert Chemistry

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

5. Engineering

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

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

Why choose Engineering?

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


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

How is Engineering Assessed


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

6. Construction

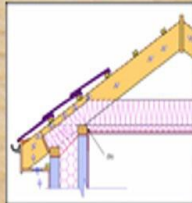
CONSTRUCTION STUDIES




Mahogany & Yellow Pine Table



Examples of Practical Test



Question 1 Theory Test



Sun Tracking Solar Furnace

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


Assessment:

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


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

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

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




Laminated Birch Rocking Chair




Oak Model of Viking House

7. Design Communication Graphics (DCG)

Design and Communication Graphics



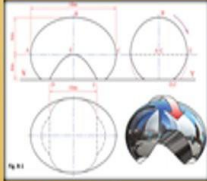


Design Sketch - Drone


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

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

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



Drawing Question



Computer Model - Lectern


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

Aptitudes/Skills: Those with an interest in any aspect of design and technical drawing


Students who like to sketch and be creative

For those who like the challenge of problem solving

Students interested in working with computer modelling & 3D printing



Computer Model - Drinks Bottle

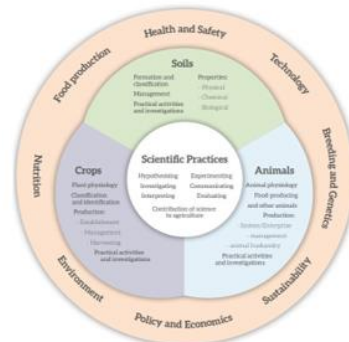


Computer Model - Clock

8. Agricultural Science

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%



28

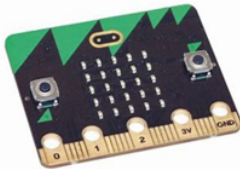
9. Computer Science

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

Subject in the Areas of Arts and Humanities

10. History



History

The subject at JC necessary?

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

What does Assessment look like:

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

What careers it's useful for: Archeologist, Librarian, Broadcast journalist, Human resources, Museum 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.

11. Geography

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
Geocology	20% at Honours level ONLY
Field Trip	25% at Ordinary level 20% at Honours level
Geographical Skills	Maps, Aerial photos, graphs



12. Art

ART

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

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

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



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.



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.

13. Music

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



Subjects in the Areas of Social, Language and Enterprise

14. Modern Foreign Languages



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)



15. German

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	Culture/Heritage	Educator
Journalism	Hospitality	Science
I.T. Consultant	Engineering/Manufacturing	
Travel/Tourism	Translator/Interpreter	
Business/Computing	Politics/EU	



16. Home Economics

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



17. Business

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.
- An organised and consistent attitude to homework and study would be essential in this subject.
- Assessed at OL & HL



18. Accounting

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.

