



# Subject Choice Transition Year

Thank you for attending

# Overview of Evening

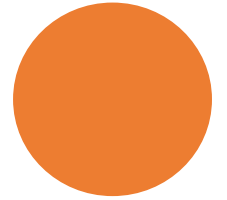
Welcome	Ms McNicholas(Principal)
Introduction	Ms Byrne (Deputy Principal)
Choosing Subjects	Ms Deering(Guidance Counsellor)
Digital Assessment Requirements, Managed devices	Ms Oglesby (Deputy Principal)
Vsware	Ms Byrne (Deputy Principal)
LCVP (LCW)	Ms Oglesby (Deputy Principal)
TY	Ms Curtis ( Programme Co-ordinator)

# Subject Choice so far...

Subject Choice Presentation has begun for TY classes.

December - 2 hour Guidance Workshop 3rd Years.  
Research & Questions

Feb/March – Individual Subject Talks from LC teachers











# SUBJECT CHOICE

Most students will take seven leaving cert subjects... but, there are many different pathways through senior cycle.

Core subjects for students include:

- English
- Maths
- \*Irish  
(unless a student has a D.E.S.exemption)

You will then choose additional options.





St. Mary's  
offers

20 subjects

## Subject Groupings

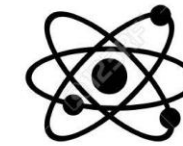
### **Business Studies Group**

Business, Accounting, Economics



### **Science Group**

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Agricultural Science, Applied Maths



### **Language Group**

French, Spanish



### **Practical Group**

Design and Communication Graphics, Construction Studies



### **Social Studies/Humanities Group**

Geography, History, Art, Religious Education, Classical Studies, Music, P.E., Politics and Society

### **LCVP**

Leaving Cert Vocational Programme

NB: Subject running depends on numbers who pick it





**WHAT DO I NEED  
TO CONSIDER  
WHEN CHOOSING  
SUBJECTS?**

## THREE FACTORS TO CONSIDER



### 1. INTEREST

You should choose subjects that you are genuinely interested in as you are most likely going to enjoy studying those subjects and do well in them.



### 2. WHAT I AM GOOD AT

Which are the subjects you do best in?



### 3. FUTURE OPTIONS

In addition to the core subjects (English, Irish and Maths) there are other subjects that are essential for some college courses and the world of work.

If you are applying for opportunities in the future, you might need certain subjects....







Are there any subjects you need to do to gain entry to your dream college course or career.

Do you like this subject?

Is it Essential for College?

# ENTRY TO FUTURE OPTIONS

## 3 FACTORS TO CONSIDER

College  
Requirements



1.

**MINIMUM ENTRY  
REQUIREMENTS**



2.

**SPECIFIC COURSE/ENTRY  
REQUIREMENTS**

(may involve interviews,  
portfolios etc.).



3.

**POINTS**

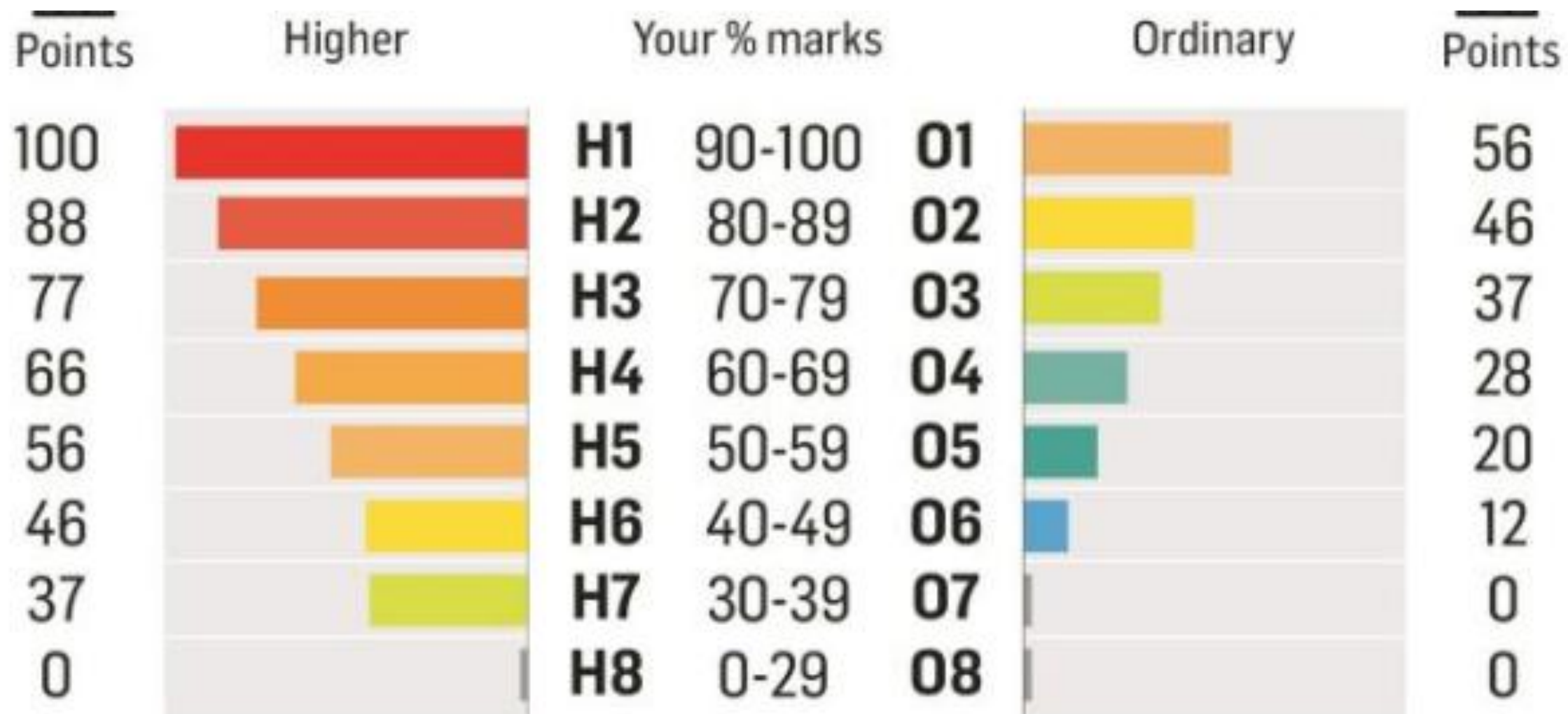
(points are not required  
for many options after  
post-primary school).

# 1 Framework of Qualifications

FOR AWARD-TYPES AND AWARDING BODIES







**+25** Bonus points for H1-H6 maths

# ENTRY TO FUTURE OPTIONS

## 3 FACTORS TO CONSIDER

College  
Requirements



1.

**MINIMUM ENTRY  
REQUIREMENTS**



2.

**SPECIFIC COURSE/ENTRY  
REQUIREMENTS**

(may involve interviews,  
portfolios etc.).



3.

**POINTS**

(points are not required  
for many options after  
post-primary school).

# Entry Requirements and Specific Subject Requirements

- The 2 main subject areas to be aware of are:
- The **3rd language** – French/Spanish
- A **Science Subject**







- 3 languages (189 courses)

NUI- National University of Ireland

- **UCD**
- **Maynooth Uni**
- **Royal College of Surgeons**
- University of Galway
- UCC

# 3 languages



- Exceptions:  
Science  
and Engineering  
French/Spanish  
NOT  
a requirement





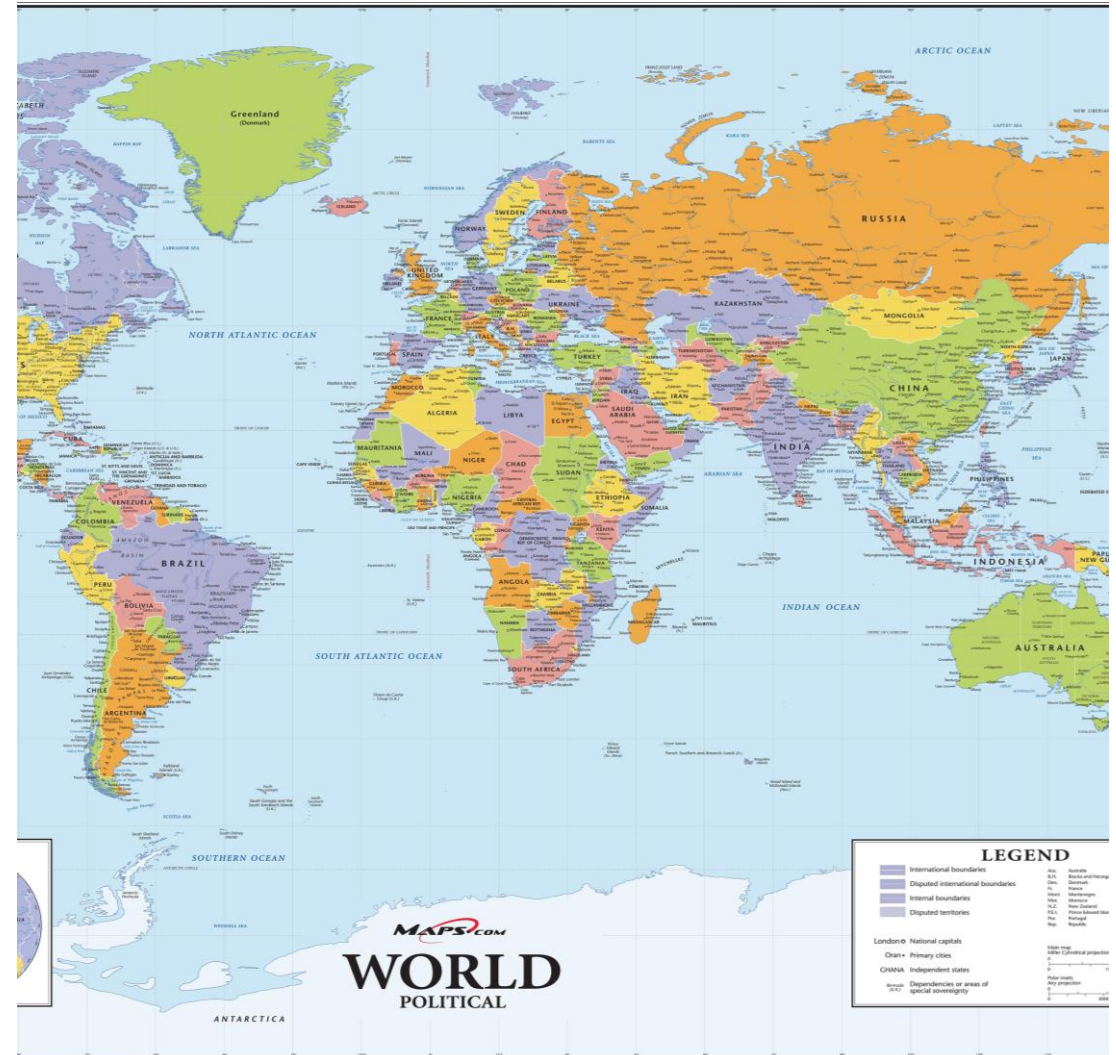
# Do you speak a language other than English or Irish at home?

- Arabic
- German
- Italian
- Japanese
- Lithuanian
- Mandarin Chinese
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Russian
- (Latin & Ancient Greek also included)



# If you speak one of these languages at home..

- Any of these languages can be used in place of French or Spanish once the student sits the Leaving Cert in this subject
- We don't offer them as subjects in school so lessons outside school would need to be arranged by each family
- Curriculum/Specification and past papers are available online





# WHAT IS AN ARMY OFFICER CADET



3 languages  
required for the  
Cadets

institiúid teicneolaíochta dhún dealgan



DUNDALK

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

1 language required-  
English or Irish



T  
DUBLIN

OLLSCOIL TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA  
BHAILE ÁTHA CLIATH

TECHNOLOGICAL  
UNIVERSITY DUBLIN

# ENTRY TO FUTURE OPTIONS

## 3 FACTORS TO CONSIDER



1.

**MINIMUM ENTRY  
REQUIREMENTS**



2.

**SPECIFIC COURSE/ENTRY  
REQUIREMENTS**

(may involve interviews,  
portfolios etc.).



3.

**POINTS**

(points are not required  
for many options after  
post-primary school).



# The Sciences

---

- Biology
- **Chemistry**
- Physics
- Agricultural Science

Needed for **Science courses, Medicine, Allied Health Professions**

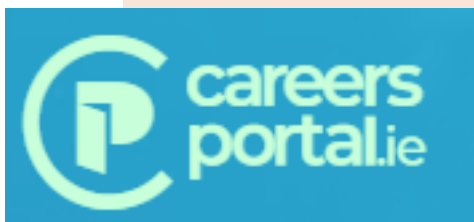
Needed for **Engineering** in the **NUI colleges- UCD, UCC, UG, Maynooth**



# Tools to help you pick your subject



[Leaving Cert Subjects | CareersPortal.ie](#)



- With this tool you can search each subject to see if it is **essential** for your chosen **college** and **course**
- **interest assessment**
- This is a great site for watching **career videos**
- **interest assessment**
- **Read about subjects**

# Leaving Cert Subjects

---

## Practical Group

Construction Studies

Engineering

Design & Comm  
Graphics

Technology

## Science Group

Agricultural Science

Applied Maths

Biology

Chemistry

Mathematics

Physics

Physics and Chemistry

Computer Science

## Artistic & Creative Group



# Leaving Certificate Chemistry

Career Zone

1 2 3 4 5



NFQ Level

4

Duration

2 Years

Summary

Grades Awarded

Course Overview

Course Content

Exam Structure

Career Possibilities

3rd Level Requirements

## 3rd Level Requirements

### Required for 3rd Level?

This subject may be essential for entry into some Third Level courses. Click on the link below to view courses that may require this subject for entry:



**Chemistry**

Career Zone

1 2 3 4 5



NFQ Level

4

Duration

2 Years

Summary

Grades Awarded

Course Overview

Course Content

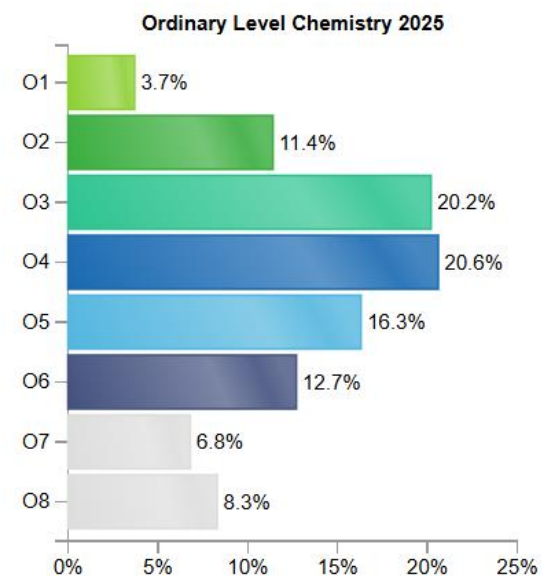
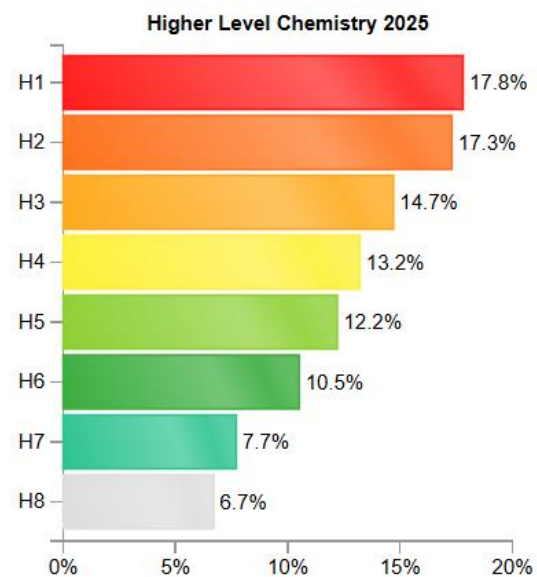
Exam Structure

Career Possibilities

3rd Level Requirements

## Grades Awarded

### Marks Distribution 2025:



## Subject

Chemistry



- ☐ 7 courses definitely require Chemistry
- ☐ 204 courses may require Chemistry
- ☐ 1340 courses do not require Chemistry

Total: 1551



Advanced filters



**Please select one of the 3 categories on the left.**

**All courses referred to in this section are Third Level CAO entry. The Course Data in this section is for the CAO entry in 2025**

**"A Science Subject" includes the following subjects: Agricultural Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physics and Chemistry.**

**"A Second Language" includes the following subjects: Ancient Greek, Arabic, French, German, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Lithuanian, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish.**

**"A Third Language" includes the following subjects: Ancient Greek, Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese,**



# Courses that definitely require Chemistry

## **Dentistry**

[University College Cork](#) & RCSI (new)

## **Medicine - Undergraduate Entry**

[University College Cork](#)

## **Human Nutrition & Dietetics - Grangegorman**

[TU Dublin - Technological University Dublin](#)

## **Pharmacy**

[University College Cork](#) & Trinity College, Dublin

## **Medical & Health Sciences**

[University College Cork](#)

## **Veterinary Medicine - Undergraduate Entry**

[University College Dublin](#) & ATU

SETU – Bio/Chem

# LEAVING CERT SUBJECT CHOICE



[classroomguidance.ie](http://classroomguidance.ie)

# Book Grant

---

- As far as we are aware, the book grant will continue to be issued.
- That will cover all textbooks, workbooks and some stationery.



# Digital Assessment Requirements

01

have a weighting of at least 40%

02

be set and marked by the SEC

03

be subject to the SEC arrangements for the completion, authentication and submission of coursework



# What Subjects have Projects? AACs?

Currently have Coursework

Part of new Senior Cycle

Art

Classical  
Studies

History

Geography

Religion

Economics

PE

Ag Sci

Design and  
Communication  
Graphics

Politics and  
Society

LCVP

Construction

## Tranche 1 – 2025

Business, Biology, Chemistry & Physics

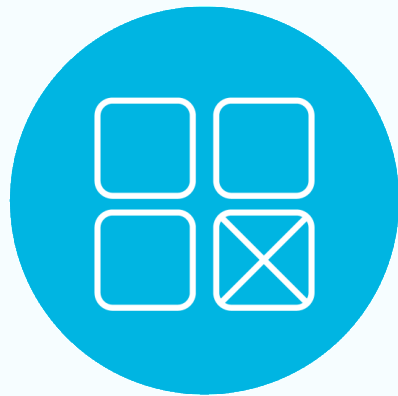
## Tranche 2 – 2026

Construction Studies, Engineering, Geography, Physical Education (PE), and the new Leaving Certificate Life, Community and Work (LCW) (replacing LCVP Link Modules)

## Tranche 3 – 2027

Agricultural Science, Accounting, English, Design & Communication Graphics, History, Mathematics and Music

# Device Management



**No Inappropriate  
Applications**

+



**MDM**

+



**Locking Down  
Service**

# What does it include for parents?



## Supported throughout entire time in school

Technical support via phone and email for parents and students.



## DEVICE CONFIGURATION

Bespoke setup and management for each student.



## TRAINING

Complimentary access to 1000's of training videos on Wriggle Connect Family.



## DEVICE SECURITY

Secure device configuration using MDM to ensure device is for educational use only.



## REPAIRS & LOANERS

Management of warranty repairs alongside logistics support. Also, the provision of a device loaner programme for quick swap-out.

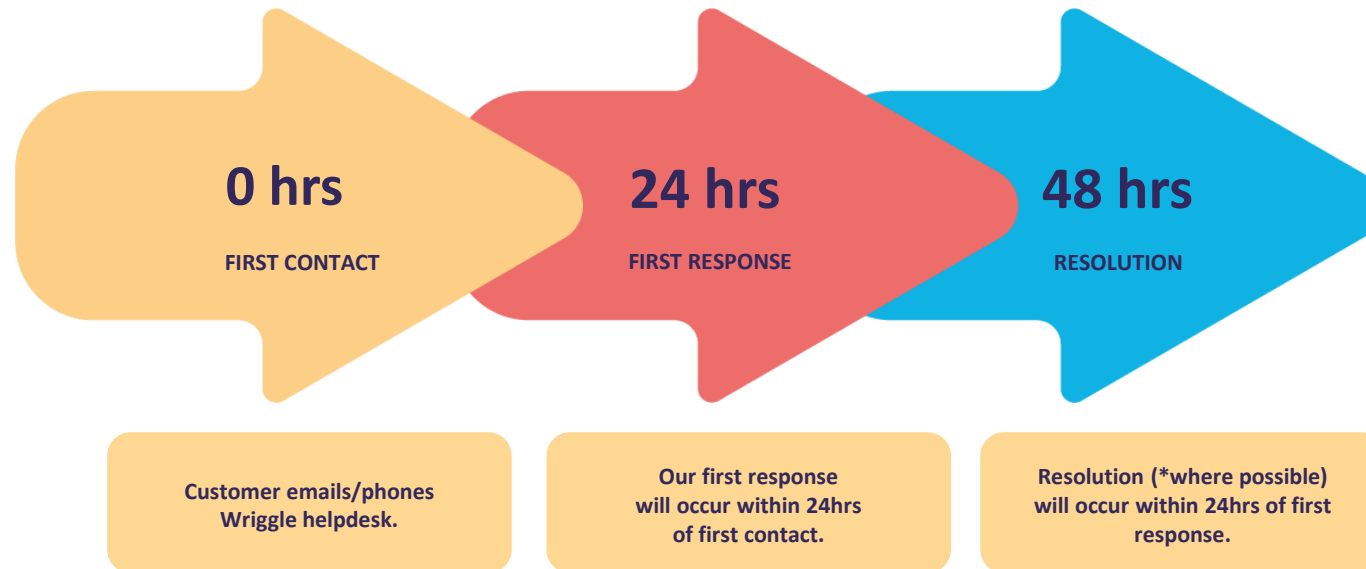


## Interest Free Payment Plans

Pay off your bundle with 12 interest free payments

Private & Confidential

# Customer Service





# Managed Device – Wriggle - €627 Total inc case

Asus BR12 8GB RAM / 128GB SSD incl 3YR Warranty	€529
2 YR Service & Support	€40
SENSO – 2 Year Subscription	€18
Protective Case	€40

# Devices

That means they need to be managed by Wriggle and SENSO

The devices used in school must be used exclusively as an educational tool (separate to any device they may use for gaming at home), with them all using the same spec device

The management system will be removed after 6th year, so the device can be used at Third level if he minds it.

This is so they do not access inappropriate content, and teachers can be confident that they are on task in class.



## Online Safety and Device Security

### Problem

Access to Distracting or Inappropriate Content

### Wriggle Solution



Wriggle's team of engineers install Mobile Device Management software onto each student's device before it arrives at the student's home.

#### Parents

Peace of mind knowing their children are safe to browse online.

#### Teachers

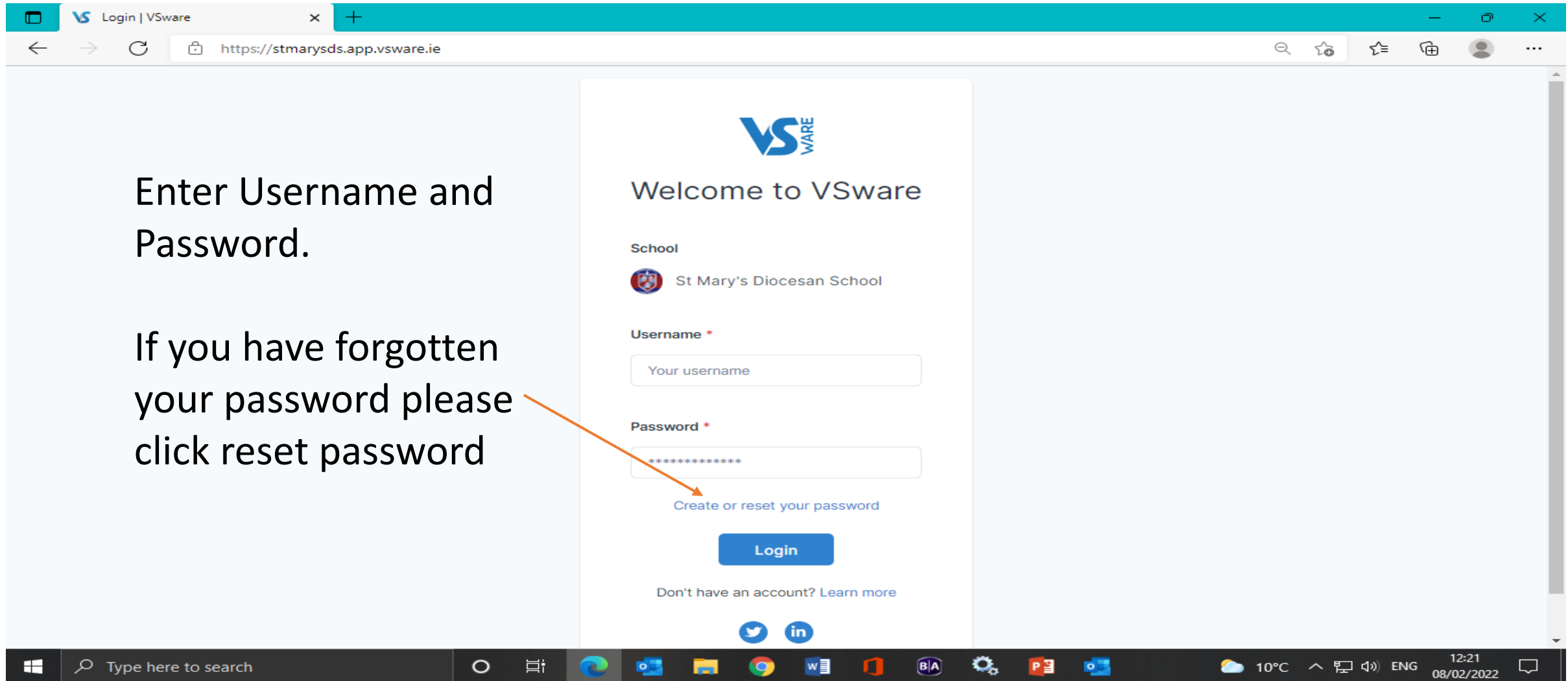
Keep on top of student behaviour with classroom management tools.

**senso.**   
Remote Monitoring and Management

# Picking Subject Options on Vsware & Dates

Enter Username and Password.

If you have forgotten your password please click reset password



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `https://stmarysds.app.vsware.ie`. The page title is "Login | VSware". The main content area features the VSware logo and the text "Welcome to VSware". Below this, there is a "School" section with the St Mary's Diocesan School logo and name. The "Username" field is labeled "Username \*" and contains the placeholder text "Your username". The "Password" field is labeled "Password \*" and contains masked text "\*\*\*\*\*". Below the password field is a link that says "Create or reset your password", which is highlighted by an orange arrow originating from the text "click reset password" on the left. At the bottom of the form is a blue "Login" button. Below the button is a link that says "Don't have an account? Learn more". The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom of the screen.

VS WARE

Welcome to VSware

School

St Mary's Diocesan School

Username \*

Your username

Password \*

\*\*\*\*\*

[Create or reset your password](#)

Login

Don't have an account? [Learn more](#)





Parent Dashboard

Your Children ▾



## Parent Dashboard



### Welcome to the Dashboard

This page is your one-stop-shop to view live notifications on your child's attendance, behaviour, reports and more. If you want to explore further, click into your child's profile.



### Your Children



### Your Contact Details



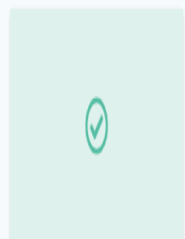
### Notifications

Nothing to report!

Notifications related to your children will appear here when available.

Click here  
for your son

Pick an area to explore



### Attendance

Monitor your child's attendance at a glance, view records from an entire year or specific lesson.

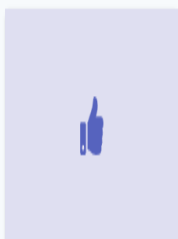
[Learn More >](#)



### Assessment

View your child's full academic record, track progress over time and download term assessments.

[Learn More >](#)



### Behaviour

Keep track of your child's behaviour, monitor progress & teacher feedback.

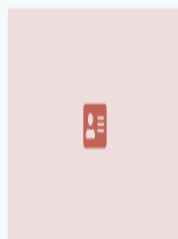
[Learn More >](#)



### Timetable

View your child's timetable, see realtime data for which lesson they are in at any given time.

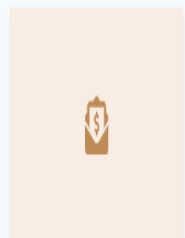
[Learn More >](#)



### Personal Info

Overview of your child's key info. Ensure that this is up to date.

[Learn More >](#)



### Fees

Overview of school fees for the year, pay directly via card



### Student Options

Submit next year's subject preferences directly to the

Scroll down to click  
'Learn more under  
Student Options

**Attendance**

Monitor your child's attendance at a glance, view records from an entire year or specific lesson.

[Learn More >](#)

**Assessment**

View your child's full academic record, track progress over time and download term assessments.

[Learn More >](#)

**Behaviour**

Keep track of your child's behaviour, monitor progress & teacher feedback.

[Learn More >](#)

**Timetable**

View your child's timetable, see realtime data for which lesson they are in at any given time.

[Learn More >](#)

**Personal Info**

Overview of your child's key info. Ensure that this is up to date.

[Learn More >](#)

**Fees**

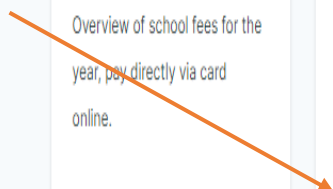
Overview of school fees for the year, pay directly via card online.

[Learn More >](#)

**Student Options**

Submit next year's subject preferences directly to the school.

[Learn More >](#)



Child profile

# Student Options



Please select options 1-7 otherwise they will be chosen at random

On the table(s) below choose subjects in order of the highest priority of preference (1, 2, etc).

**Closing date:** 18/02/2022

## Subject Set 1

Preference	Subject Choice
1	Select a subject ▼
2	Select a subject ▼
3	Select a subject ▼

Click on each number from 1-7

Confirm

- Music
- Classical Studies



# LCVP



Renamed Leaving  
Certificate Life,  
Community and Work  
(LCW)

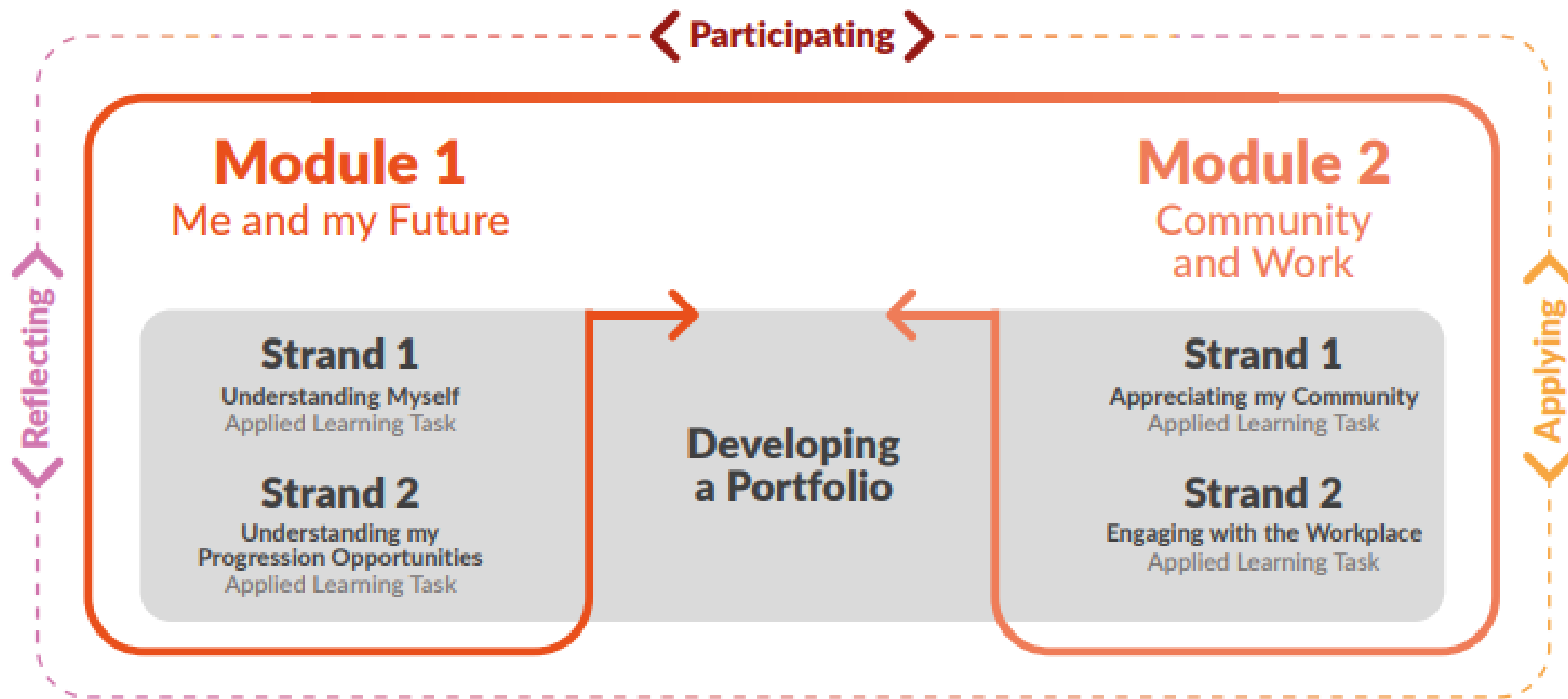
It is an **optional  
extra subject**

# What is this subject?

- ▶ The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) enhanced the vocational focus of the traditional Leaving Certificate and was introduced in 1994 to respond to Ireland's changing work and business environment.
- ▶ It provided an extra subject where students develop interpersonal, organisational and technological skills. LCVP prepared students for further education, employment, or even starting their own business.

# LCW - Leaving Certificate Life, Community and Work specification

- ▶ A new Leaving Certificate Life, Community and Work specification will be introduced for fifth year students in September 2026. This will replace the current Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme Statement.
- ▶ Link to specification [SC-LCW-Spec-ENG-INT.pdf](#)
- ▶ Link to information on the AAC [Guidelines-to-complete-the-Portfolio-in-Action-AAC-EN.pdf](#)



**Figure 3:** Overview of the specification



# Digital technology in LCW

- ▶ Digital technology can play a role to further enhance teaching, learning and assessment of Life, Community and Work. Digital technology can support students as they engage with the learning identified in the specification, while also providing additional opportunities for students to engage with a variety of learning experiences, through the use of virtual and blended approaches. As students engage with Life, Community and Work, they may have opportunities to use digital technology to:
  - ▶ • communicate effectively with others
  - ▶ • engage in virtual and/or blended learning experiences
  - ▶ • create and develop good quality documents that are multimodal in nature
  - ▶ • effectively research using online tools
  - ▶ • understand the strengths, limitations and ethical considerations of AI tools
  - ▶ • develop a digital portfolio\*, which is a collation of digital artefacts.

# PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ To qualify for LCW, students must take the following:
- ▶ must take a minimum of five Leaving Certificate subjects (at Higher, Ordinary or Foundation Level) including Irish. Students who are exempt from studying Irish, must take additional subject(s) to ensure that they present a minimum of five Leaving Certificate subjects in their Leaving Certificate examination.
- ▶ must engage with the four strands of study.

# CAO POINTS FOR LEAVING CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME (LCVP)

LCVP AWARD	UNIVERSITIES & INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY
Distinction (80 - 100%)	66 points (equivalent to grade H4 in Higher Level) <b>Note:</b> grade O1 in Ordinary Level = 56 points.
Merit (65 - 79%)	46 points (equivalent to grade H6 in Higher Level / grade O2 in Ordinary Level).
Pass (50 - 64%)	28 points (equivalent to grade O4 in Ordinary Level).
Not achieved (0-49%)	

# Advantages of taking LCVP



For CAO purposes, fall back subject. 80% of students end up using it in their CAO.



60% portfolio work, which is completed mainly in 5<sup>th</sup> year and the AAC done in early 6<sup>th</sup> year. The remaining 40% is examined in a written exam held in May of 6<sup>th</sup> year.



Develops skills involving IT, report writing, case studies, interview techniques and teamwork, all of which are very useful for third level and in employment. The LCVP qualification provides an opportunity for students to become better informed regarding career choices.



# What's next for 3rd Year??

- 10 full weeks left in school
- State Exams Timetable: [EN-EX-90634608.pdf](#)
- 10 subjects, 2 hours
- Mock Results- Academic monitoring with Ms Coleman and Mr Spain
- Study Skills- Inspire Education
- StudyClix subscription
- Study Timetables, Past Papers, Effective use of his time
- Rewards, Awards & Trip

:

# **St. Mary's D.S. Transition Year 2026-27**

# Coordinator & Yearhead

- ▶ Coordinator - R Curtis
- ▶ Yearhead - B Healy

# What is Transition Year for your son?

To promote the personal, social, educational and vocational development of the students, and to prepare them for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society.

# STUDENT DIMENSIONS

**Personal Growth-** Students mature socially and emotionally.

**Being a Learner** – Building on previous experiences begin to develop as senior cycle students.

**Civic & Community Engagement** – Make a positive difference in their schools, communities and society.

**Career Exploration** – Explore diverse future pathways. First hand work experience and developing career competencies.



# **The Year to ACHIEVE:**

- Time-Management
- Responsibility
- Charity Work
- Community Involvement
- Self Regulation

**A golden opportunity to think about options for Leaving Cert Subjects and get ahead in the core subjects!!!**

TY is about TIME MANAGEMENT

# **TIMETABLE**

# Core Subjects

- ▶ English
- ▶ Irish
- ▶ Maths
- ▶ Modern Foreign Language \*

# Coursework

- ▶ Enterprise
- ▶ P.E.
- ▶ Pastoral Care
- ▶ Portfolio

- ▶ **Careers**
- ▶ **SPHE**
- ▶ **Wellbeing**
- ▶ **Community Care**
- ▶ **Digital Literacy**



**Accounting/Biology/Geography/Law/  
Physics**

**Ag Science/Business/Classics/Music/  
Religion**

**Art/Economics/History/Politics/Statistics**

**Sustainability/Chemistry/Construction/DIY  
/Podcasting**

**Chess/DCG/Journalism/French/Spanish**

# **Tuesday Modules (5/6weeks)**

- ▶ **Cookery (Canteen)**
- ▶ **Photography**
- ▶ **Yoga**
- ▶ **Film Making**
- ▶ **Home Economics (Sacred Heart)**

TY is about TIME MANAGEMENT

# ASSESSMENT

► **Your son will have exams/presentations at Christmas and summer in the following subjects:**

- English
- Irish
- Maths

► **He will have coursework in all other areas**

# ATTAINMENT

► *Based on Attendance, Behaviour,  
Subject Effort & Work  
Experience.*

1. Distinction
2. Merit
3. Pass



# Credits for TY Certificate

There are a total of 300  
Credits available

- ▶ Distinction above 260  
Credits
- ▶ Merit above 240 Credits
- ▶ Pass above 180 Credits

TY is about TIME MANAGEMENT

# **WORK EXPERIENCE**

3 weeks (Nov & April)

- Vetting
- Variety
- Evaluation
- Insurance
- Community Placement at Christmas

TY is about TIME MANAGEMENT

# **ACTIVITIES & TALKS (Cost €530)**

## **ACTIVITIES & TALKS**

**SEPTEMBER** – Reptile Haven, Causey farm, Barista Workshop, Jui Jitsu, Stephen Kiernan Motivational Workshop, DAR Collection.

**OCTOBER** – SFX Workshop, DCU Climate Change, School of Life, Wolftones match.

**NOVEMBER** – Work Experience, Cinema.

**DECEMBER** – SVDP Collection, Poetry Slam Workshop, TY Craft Fair, Sacred Heart Bake Sale, Xmas Party.

**JANUARY** – Skincare Workshop, Barber Workshop, Law Online, Cyber Security Talk.

**FEBRUARY** – Alan Devine Public Speaking Workshop, TY English Play, RNLI Water Safety Talk, Self Defence, Dare to Believe Olympics Talk.

**MARCH** – Work Experience, Trip to Balbriggan Play, Louth Enterprise, Fencing Workshop, Belfast trip, Big Legal, Self Defence.

**APRIL** – Belfast, Hilton Hotel, Danish Visitors, Movie Magic, Bodhran Workshop.

**MAY** – Special Olympics Collection, Cupcake Competition, DCU Flynn Park, Oscars, Movie Magic, Cavan Adventure Centre, Emerald Park, TY Grad



# Transition Year Motto

*“You will get back from T.Y.  
what you put into it.”*

**Be Active! Be Involved!**

# CONS

- ▶ 1. Extra year in school
- ▶ 2. The cost
- ▶ 3. Fear of getting 'lazy'
- ▶ In conclusion, TY is a great year offering new opportunities for personal development. But it does not suit all young people.

# How to Apply/Deadline

- ▶ A link to the online application will be posted in Microsoft teams by end of day Friday, **February 13th 2026.**
- ▶ Application must be submitted by **3pm Friday 20th February.**
- ▶ Late applications will not be accepted.

# ANY QUESTIONS ?

