

# Subject Choice

St. Mary's Diocesan School

# Overview of Evening

- Introduction
- What's next for 3rd Year students? (Principal)
- School Update, Choosing Subjects,
- Digital Assessment Requirements
- College Requirements
- Vsware
- LCVP/ TY

Ms Noone (Deputy

Ms Delany (Guidance Counsellor)

Ms McNicholas (Principal)

Ms Deering (Guidance Counsellor)

Ms Noone (Deputy Principal)

Ms Oglesby (Deputy Principal)

Ms Curtis ( Programme Co-ordinator)

# What's next for 3rd Year??

- 7 full weeks left in school
- State Exams Timetable: <https://schooldays.ie/articles/junior-certificate-examination-timetable-2025/>
- 10 subjects, 2 hours
- Mock Results- Academic monitoring with Ms Martin & Ms Peavoy
- Study Skills- Inspire Education
- Study Timetables, Past Papers, Effective use of his time
- Rewards, Awards & Trip

# Subject Choice so far...

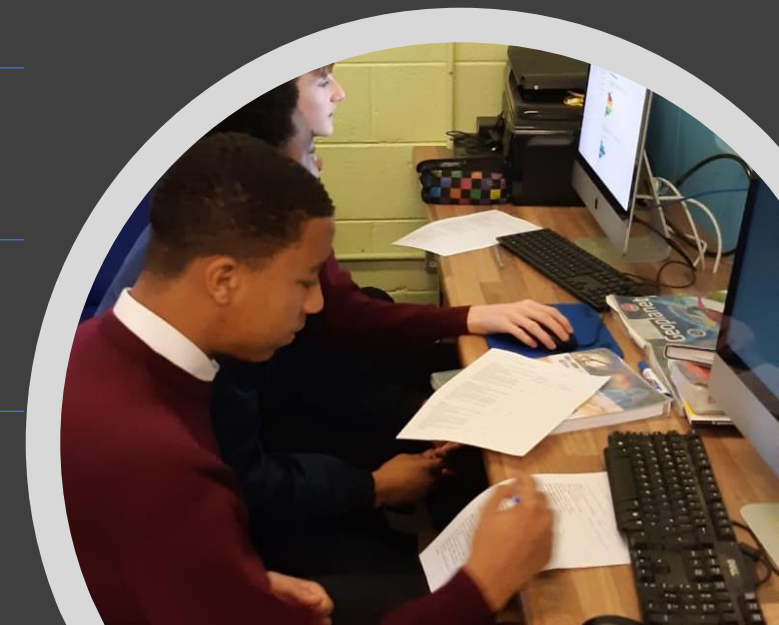
November : CAW – CAO, Entry requirements, specific subjects required

Subject Choice Presentation to each 3rd/ TY class.

TY Weekly Career Classes

December - 90 mins Guidance Workshop 3rd Years. Research & Questions

Jan/ Feb – Individual Subject Talks from LC teachers





POETRY/PLAYS

Clear your mind of fear  
ENGLISH

WOODWORK  
CONSTRUCTION  
Cook the family dog  
ART/DESIGN

If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door

GEOGRAPHY  
TRAVEL  
Quality not quantity in anything you do.  
SCIENCE

SPORTS  
HOBBIES  
PASTIMES

RELIGION  
LANGUAGES

McGillivray saw the apple fall  
but Newton asked why







How many subjects do students do for the Leaving Certificate?

Students choose the remaining

**4** subjects



# 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



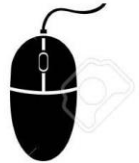
### **Science Group**

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

**NB: Subject running depends on numbers who pick it**

### **LCVP**

Leaving Cert Vocational Programme



**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.

## 3 factors

- Interest
- What am I good at?
- Future Options for College/Work

# MAKING A WISE CHOICE

## QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK YOURSELF

What subjects are you most interested in?

What subject are you likely to be best at?



- Remember that the senior cycle requires a great amount of work over two years.
- It will be easier to work hard if you have chosen, in so far as possible, subjects

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).

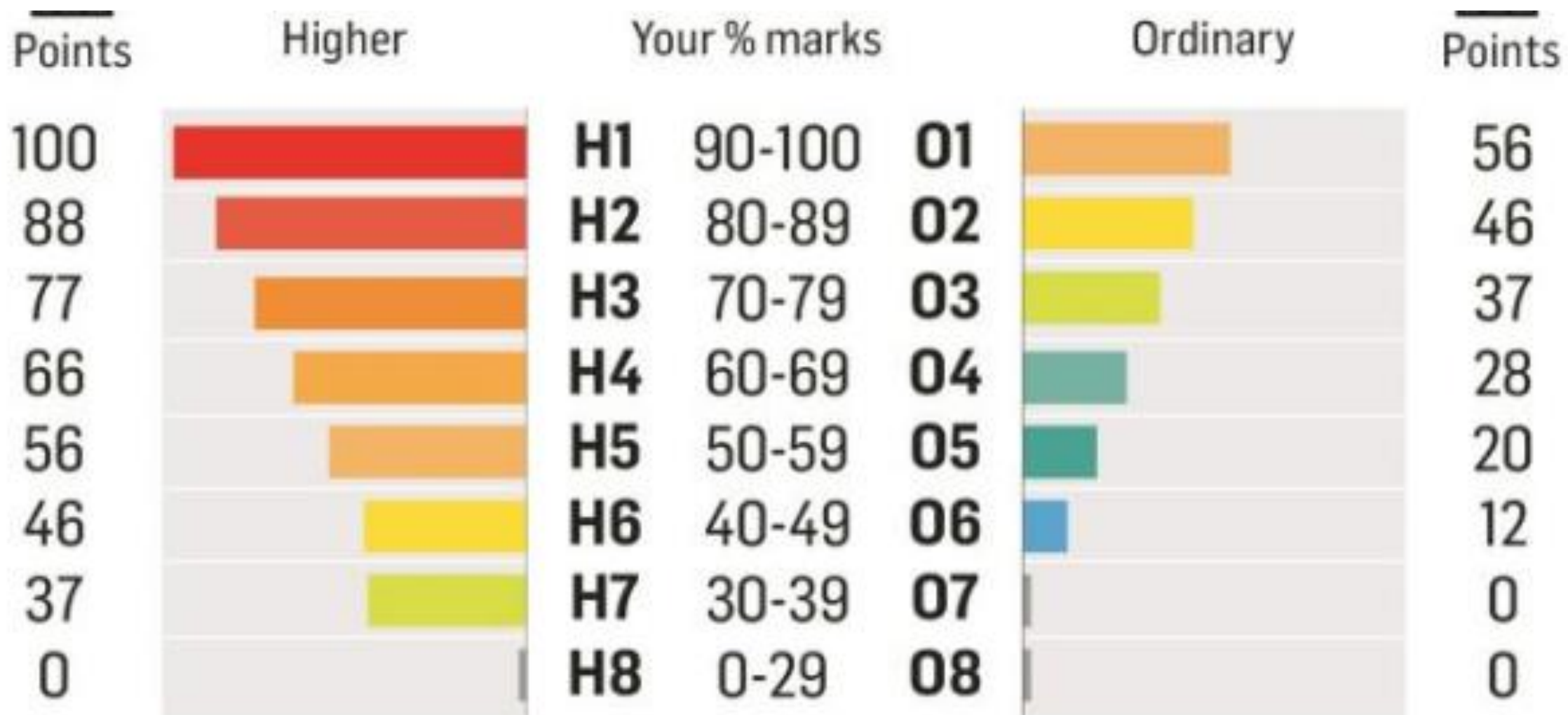
# 10-Level Framework of Qualifications

FOR AWARD-TYPES AND AWARDBODY

## KEY

- FETAC - Further Education and Training A
- SEC - State Examinations Commission (D)
- HETAC - Higher Education and Training A
- DIT - Dublin Institute of Technology
- Universities





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

# Digital Assessment Requirements

01

have a weighting of at least 40%

02

be set and marked by the SEC

03

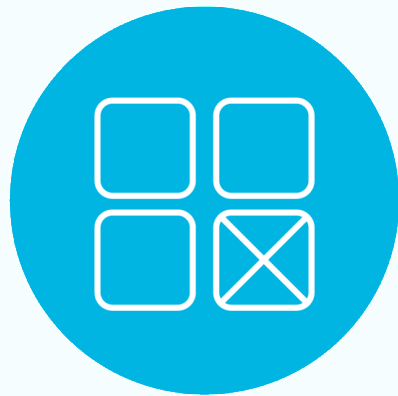
be subject to the SEC arrangements for the completion, authentication and submission of coursework

# Managed Device – Wriggle - €603 Total inc case

Asus BR12 8GB RAM / 128GB SSD incl 3YR Warranty	€479
3 YR Service & Support	€60
SENSO – 2 Year Subscription	€14
Protective Case	€50



# Device Management



**No Inappropriate  
Applications**

+



**MDM**

+



**Locking Down  
Service**

# Customer 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



# What Subjects have Projects? AACs?

Art	Classical Studies	History
Geography	Religion	Economics
PE	Ag Sci	Design and Communication Graphics, Construction Studies
Politics and Society	LCVP	Leaving Cert Vocational Programme

## Tranche One – 2025 – AACs

- Business
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics




## 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

# 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 (161 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



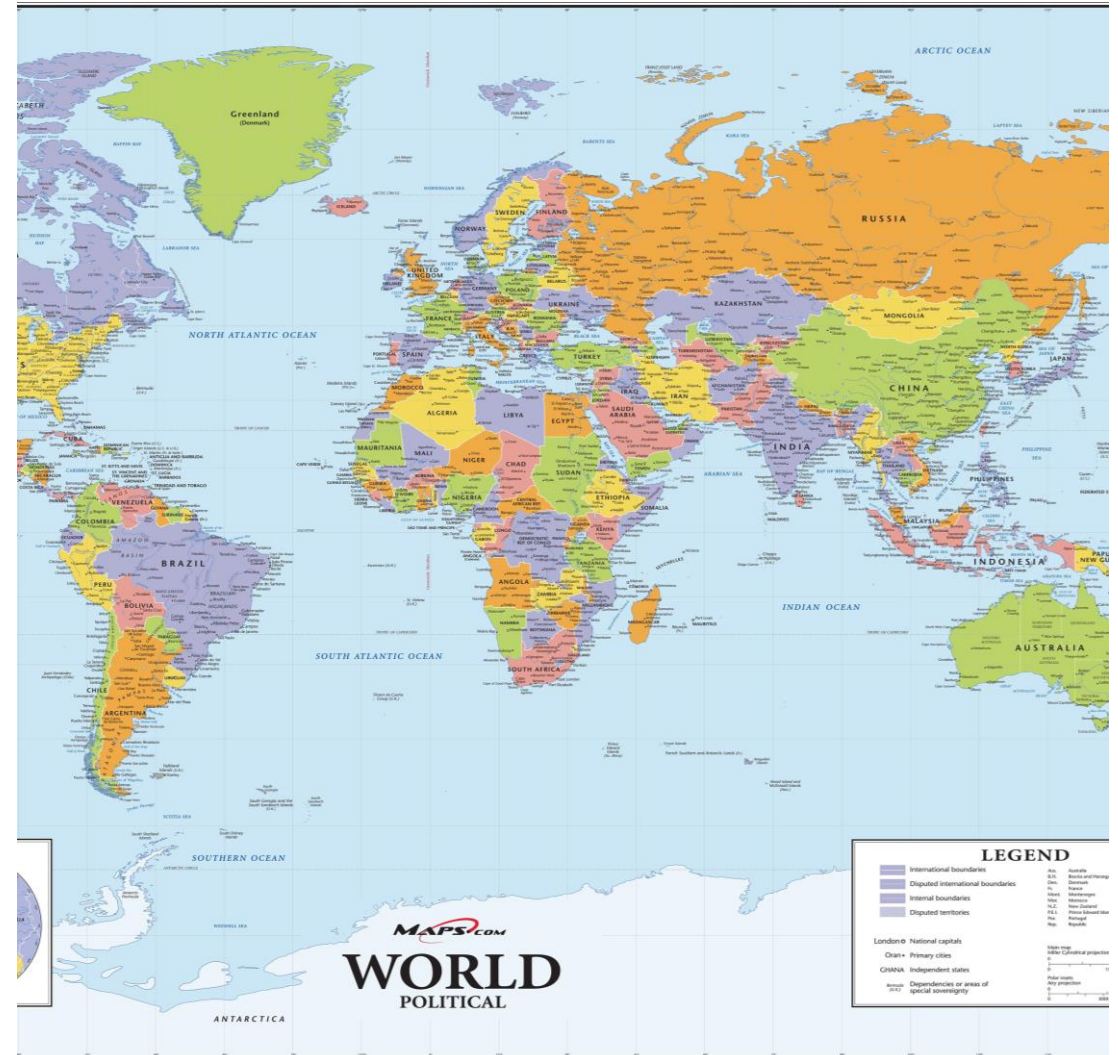
# Do you speak a language other than English or Irish at home?

- 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 dealgán



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).

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Agricultural Science (cannot be presented with Biology as a separate science subject)



# Tools to help you pick your subject



[Leaving Cert Subjects |  
CareersPortal.ie](https://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

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## 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](#)

## Summary

Grades Awarded

Course Overview

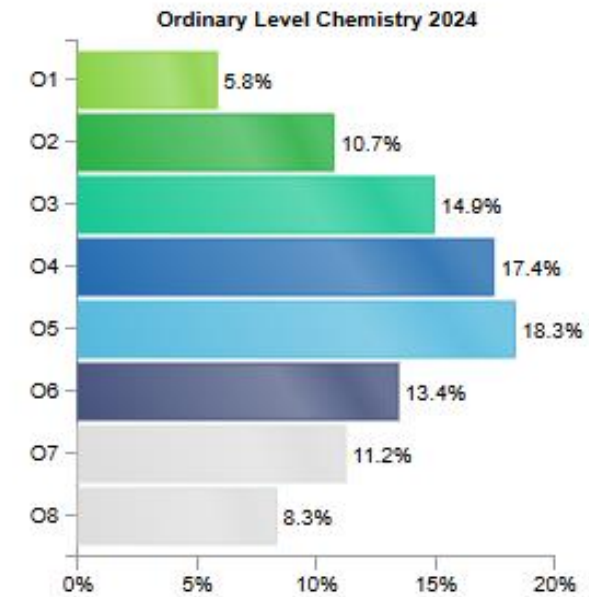
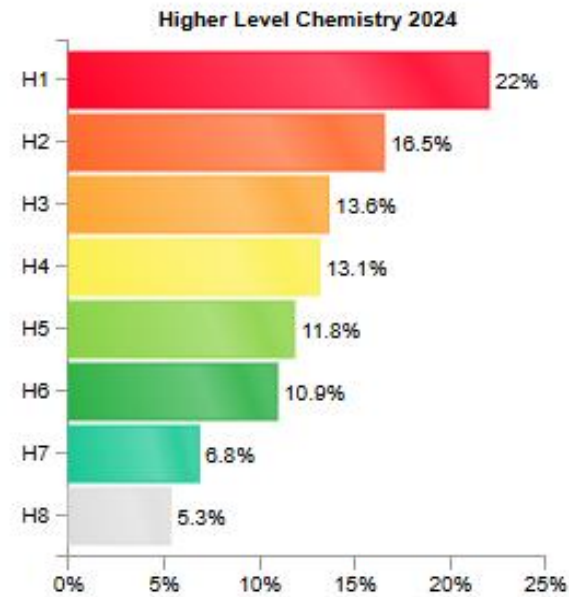
Course Content

Exam Structure

Career Possibilities

3rd Level Requirements

## Grades Awarded



Explore Marks Distribution for all Subjects:





## 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 \(new\)](#)

CAO Points: 618

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

[TU Dublin - Technological University Dublin](#)

CAO Points: 556

## **Medical & Health Sciences**

[University College Cork](#)

CAO Points: 544

## **Medicine - Undergraduate Entry**

[University College Cork](#)

CAO Points: 732

## **Pharmacy**

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

CAO Points: 613 & 613

## **Veterinary Medicine - Undergraduate Entry**

[University College Dublin](#)

CAO Points: 589

# LEAVING CERT SUBJECT CHOICE



# 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 URL <https://stmarysds.app.vsware.ie>. The page content includes the Vsware logo, the text 'Welcome to VSware', and the school name 'St Mary's Diocesan School'. Below this is a login form with the following elements:

- School:** St Mary's Diocesan School
- Username \*:** A text input field containing the placeholder text 'Your username'.
- Password \*:** A password input field containing a series of asterisks '\*\*\*\*\*'.
- Buttons:** A blue 'Login' button and a blue link that says 'Create or reset your password'.
- Footer:** A link that says 'Don't have an account? Learn more' and social media icons for Twitter and LinkedIn.

An orange arrow originates from the text 'click reset password' and points to the 'Create or reset your password' link.



Type here to search



### Pick an area to explore

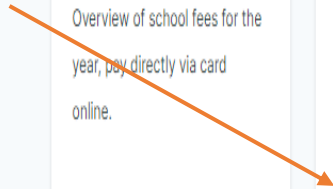
- Attendance**  
Monitor your child's attendance at a glance, view records from an entire year or specific lesson.  
[Learn More](#)
- Assessment**  
View your child's full academic record, track progress over time and download term assessments.  
[Learn More](#)
- Behaviour**  
Keep track of your child's 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.  
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Overview of school fees for the year, pay directly via card online.  
[Learn More](#)
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Submit next year's subject preferences directly to the school.  
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## Parent Dashboard



### Welcome to the Dashboard

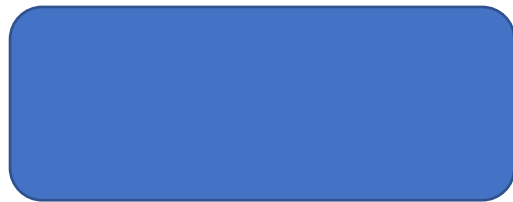
This page is your one-stop-shop to view live notifications on your child's attendance, behaviour, reports and more. If you want to explore further, click into your child's profile.



### Your Children



### Your Contact Details

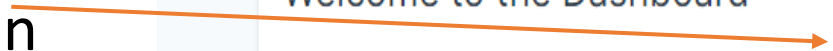


### Notifications

Nothing to report!

Notifications related to your children will appear here when available.

Click here for your son



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).

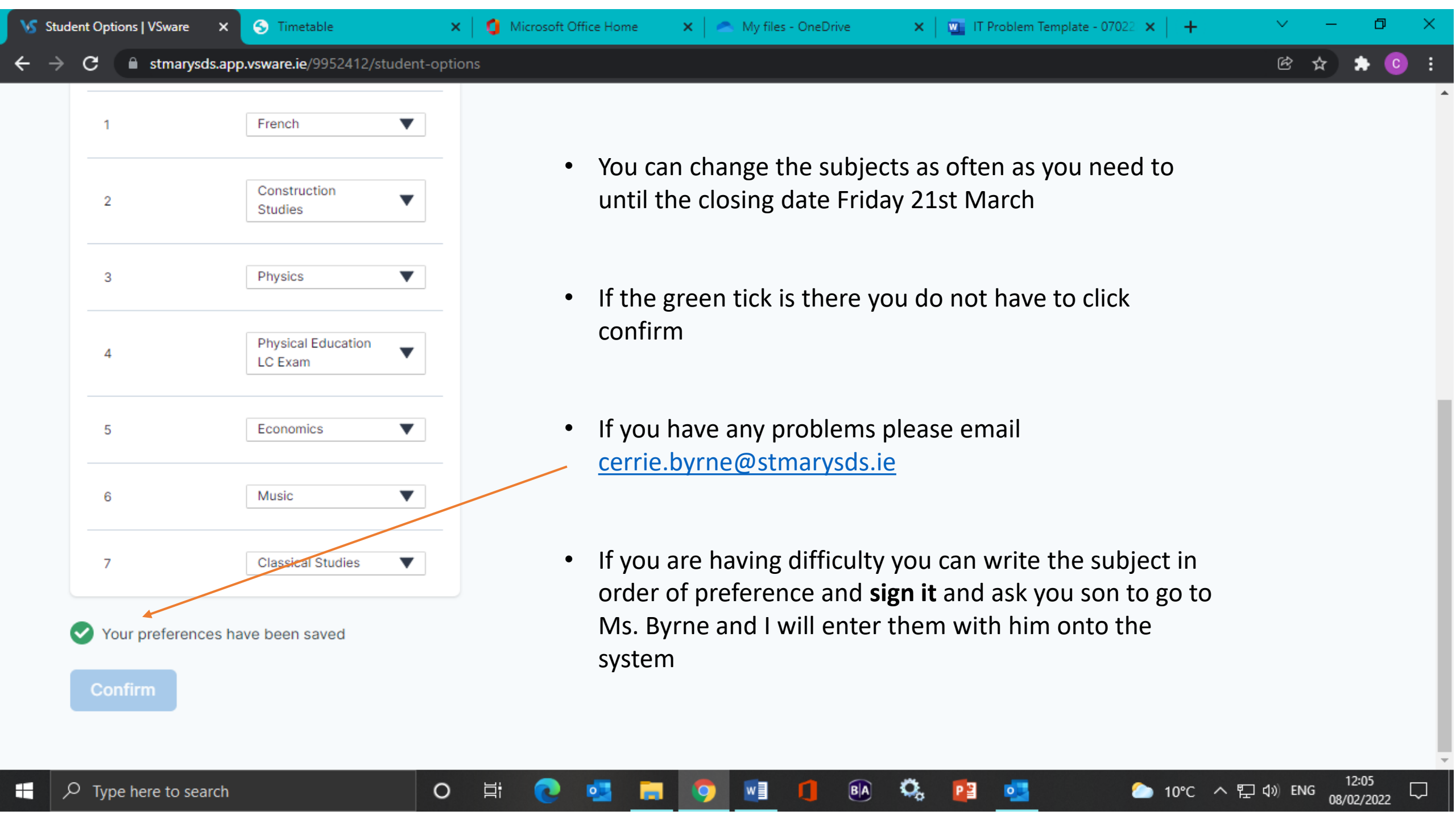
**Closing date:** 18/02/2022

## 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





1

French

2

Construction  
Studies

3

Physics

4

Physical Education  
LC Exam

5

Economics

6

Music

7

Classical Studies



Your preferences have been saved

Confirm

- You can change the subjects as often as you need to until the closing date Friday 21st March
- If the green tick is there you do not have to click confirm
- If you have any problems please email [cerrie.byrne@stmarysds.ie](mailto:cerrie.byrne@stmarysds.ie)
- If you are having difficulty you can write the subject in order of preference and **sign it** and ask you son to go to Ms. Byrne and I will enter them with him onto the system



# LCVP



Why pick  
LCVP?

# What does LCVP mean?

- ▶ Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme
- ▶ The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is an intervention designed to enhance the vocational dimension of the Leaving Certificate (established). The programme was introduced in 1994 in response to the challenge placed on Ireland's education system by a changing work and business environment.
- ▶ An extra subject
- ▶ Opportunity to develop their interpersonal, organisational and technological skills.
- ▶ To prepare for further education, seeking employment or planning to start their own business.

# LCVP Course Content

- ▶ 60% of LCVP course is made up of portfolio work, which is completed mainly in 5<sup>th</sup> year. The remaining 40% is examined in a written exam held in May of 6<sup>th</sup> year, so all of the LCVP work is completed in advance of the June exams.
- ▶ In 5<sup>th</sup> year, there is one timetabled class for LCVP.
- ▶ In 6<sup>th</sup> year, there is one timetabled class for LCVP

# PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ To qualify for LCVP, 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 study the two Link Modules, namely Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education.

# 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).

# Assessment

## 60% Portfolio

- ▶ Core items (do all four)
  - ▶ Curriculum Vitae
  - ▶ Summary Report (on a visit in/out)
  - ▶ Action Plan – i.e. on learning a new skill or organising an activity
  - ▶ Career Investigation
- ▶ Optional items (do 2 out of 4)
  - ▶ Recorded Interview – 5 minute interview
  - ▶ Report on ‘*My own place*’ – i.e. a brief summary of what facilities are available in their local area

## ← 40% Exam - 1st week of May in 6th year

- ▶ Section A – Audio Visual Questions:
  - Students watch a video featuring a business or community enterprise and answer questions on it.
- ▶ Section B – Case Study:
  - Received 3 weeks before the exam
  - Students read a short outline of a business or community enterprise and answer questions on it
- ▶ Section C:
  - Students answer 4 out of 6 general questions.
  - Topics here include questions on careers, reports, plans, interview questions, work experience and items that have been written up in their portfolios.

# Theory Course content

- ▶ UNIT 1-Introduction to working life
- ▶ UNIT 2-Job seeking skills
- ▶ UNIT 3-Career Investigation
- ▶ UNIT 4- Work Placement
- ▶ UNIT 5-Enterprise skill
- ▶ UNIT 6-Local Business Enterprises
- ▶ UNIT 7-Local Voluntary Organisations /Community Enterprises
- ▶ UNIT 8-An Enterprise Activity

# Advantages of taking LCVP



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



All of the LCVP work is completed in advance of the June exam. 60% portfolio work, which is completed mainly in 5<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.



:

**St. Mary's D.S.  
Transition Year  
2025-26**

# 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/Chess/Geography  
/Law/Physics**
- ▶ **Art/Chemistry/Economics/History/  
Politics/Statistics**
- ▶ **AgScience/Business/Classics/Music/  
Religion/Sport & Rec**
- ▶ **Woodwork/Woodwork/Sustainability**

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

- ▶ **Cookery (Canteen)**
- ▶ **Photography**
- ▶ **RSA**
- ▶ **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, Cupcak 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 tomorrow.
- ▶ Application must be submitted by 3pm Wednesday 19th March.
- ▶ Late applications will not be accepted.

**ANY QUESTIONS ?**

