



HOLY FAMILY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

SENIOR CYCLE INFORMATION EVENING

1ST December, 2020



SENIOR CYCLE COURSES

- Welcome to parents, guardians and students.
- We hope you find this presentation helpful.
- We encourage students to talk to relevant staff members, career guidance teachers and parents/guardians, before making a decision regarding Senior Cycle.
- If you have any questions after the presentation, please email the school at info@hfcs.ie and we will do our best to assist you.

Senior Cycle Courses

Leaving Certificate (LC)
Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)
Transition Year (TY) (optional)





Senior Cycle Application Process

- Current Third Year and TY students are guaranteed a place on a Senior Cycle programme, but they must apply for the Senior Cycle course of their choice
- **Application deadline is Friday, 11th December, 2020**
- Allocation of places for TY and LCA may be limited. In the event of oversubscription, a lottery will take place
- Allocation of Fifth Year subject options will be made after students have ranked their preferences via a Microsoft Form

Additional Information for Third Year Students

- Mock Examinations will take place from the 1st to 12th February, 2021.





Leaving Certificate

- Students usually take seven subjects for Leaving Certificate, unless they have an official exemption in a subject.
- Typically, students take the following subjects:
- English, Irish, Maths,
- French OR German OR Art (if they chose art instead of a language at JC)
- Three other subjects from the following list:



Subjects Taken for Leaving Certificate

Biology	Economics	Home Economics	Politics and Society
Chemistry	Construction Studies	Art	Computer Science
Physics	Engineering	Music	Leaving Certificate Physical Education
Business	Design & Communication Graphics	History	
Accounting	Technology	Geography	



Practical, Project, Oral & Exam Information

- English – 100% Written Exam
- Maths – 100% Written Exam (25 points for H6 or higher at Higher Level)
- Irish – 40% Oral
- Accounting – 100% Written Exam
- Business – 100% Written Exam
- Economics – 100% Written Exam
- Geography – 20% Field Study
- History – 20% Project
- Music – 50% Practical
- Art – 50% Project, 37.5% Art History & balance Life Drawing
- French – 25% Oral (HL) 20% Oral (OL)
- German – 25% Oral (HL) 20% Oral (OL)
- Biology – 100% Written Exam
- Chemistry – 100% Written Exam
- Physics – 100% Written Exam
- Home Economics – 20% Project
- DCG – 40% Project
- Engineering – 50% Project (HL) 60% Project (OL)
- Construction Studies – 50% Project (HL) 60% Project (OL)
- Technology – 50% Project
- PE – 20% Project, 30% Performance Assessment
- Computer Science – 30% Project
- Politics & Society – 100% Written Exam



Choosing Subjects

- Choosing 5th year subjects requires Research, Reflection and Decision
- Students need to consider the following: **Interests, Careers, Relevance and Ability**
- Choose subjects you have enjoyed to date and that you do well in
- Never pick a subject just because your friends are doing that subject



CAO Points – Maximise your points

%	Grade	Higher	Ordinary	Points
90-100	H1	100	O1	56
80-90	H2	88	O2	46
70-80	H3	77	O3	37
60-70	H4	66	O4	28
50-60	H5	56	O5	20
40-50	H6	46	O6	12
30-40	H7	37	O7	0
20-30	H8	0	O8	0



Websites and Essential Information

➤ CareersPortal.ie



➤ Qualifax.ie





COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **Be aware of requirements for specific courses.**
- Example: A modern foreign language is a requirement for some university courses
- Example: A H4 in Irish is a requirement to study Primary School Teaching
- Example: A H5 in Chemistry is required to study veterinary medicine in UCD
- **DO YOUR RESEARCH**
- **TALK TO OUR CAREER GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS**



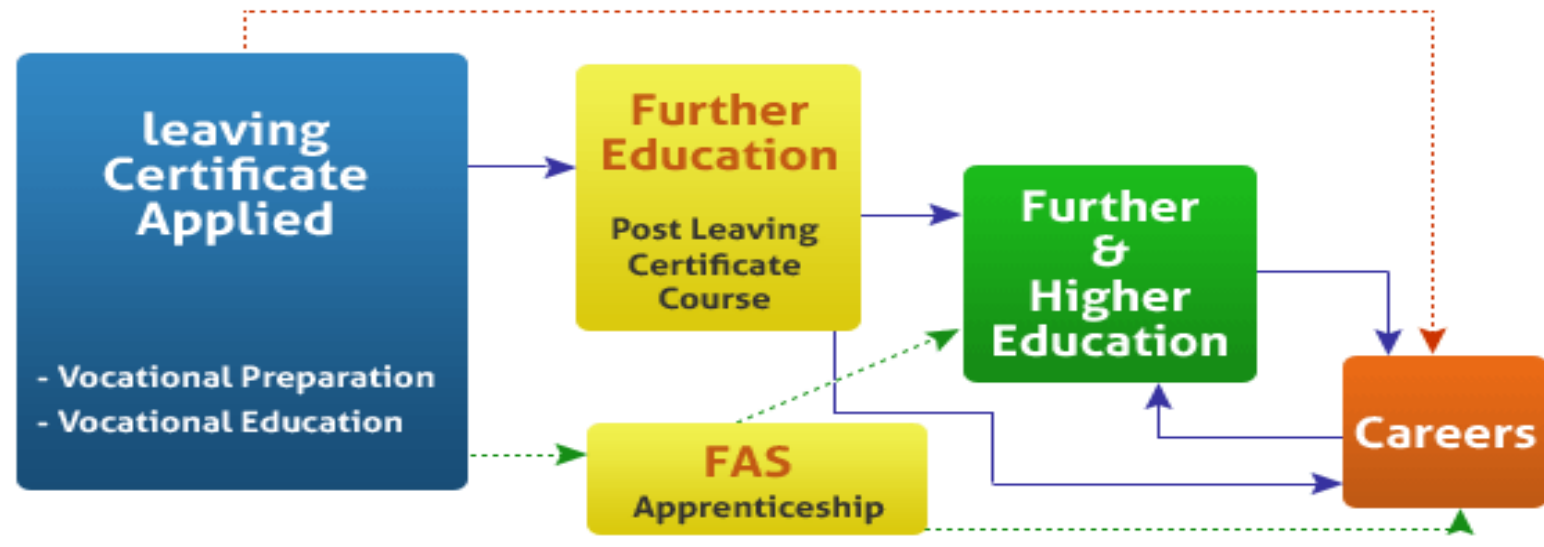
APPLICATION PROCESS

- Application Form for Senior Cycle will be via Microsoft Form sent to the student's school email
- The application will also contain subject option preference for LC
- Once a place has been allocated to a particular Senior Cycle programme, it can only be changed if there is room in another Senior Cycle programme
- Once LC subjects have been allocated, a subject change will require written parental consent and can only be changed if there is room in the subject required
- **Application Deadline is 3pm, Friday 11th December, 2020**

Leaving Certificate Applied

- This is a distinct self-contained two-year Leaving Certificate Programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life.

The LCA Route Map.



Who Should Do LCA?



➤ **Leaving Certificate Applied is designed for students who –**

Find the academic demands of Junior Cycle challenging

Have difficulty completing homework tasks on a regular basis

Prefer practical/activity-based subjects

Do not intend to go directly to university





Leaving Certificate Applied

Ardleaisínneireacht Fheidhmeach

- A Different Way

2 Year Practical Leaving Certificate



<http://lca.slss.ie>



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LCA COURSE STRUCTURE



- Two-year programme
- Divided into four half-year blocks called Sessions
- State exams at the end of 5th and 6th Year LCA
- Key Assignments and Tasks are completed during each session and these contribute to the final grade/certification
- Interviews are an important part of the programme
- Certification is based on continuous assessment marked over two years
- 90% attendance is an essential part of this programme





LCA Certification

Certificate Awarded at THREE levels –

- Pass – 120-139 credits 60-69%
- Merit – 140-169 credits 70-84%
- Distinction 170-200 credits 85-100%
- LCA Students receive their Leaving Certificate Applied Certification in August each year, on the same day as the traditional Leaving Certificate

LCA WORK EXPERIENCE

- One day per week
LCA1 every Monday
LCA2 every Friday



- Students are responsible for finding their own work experience placements
- Students should book placements early as there can be a demand
- A variety of work placements are recommended



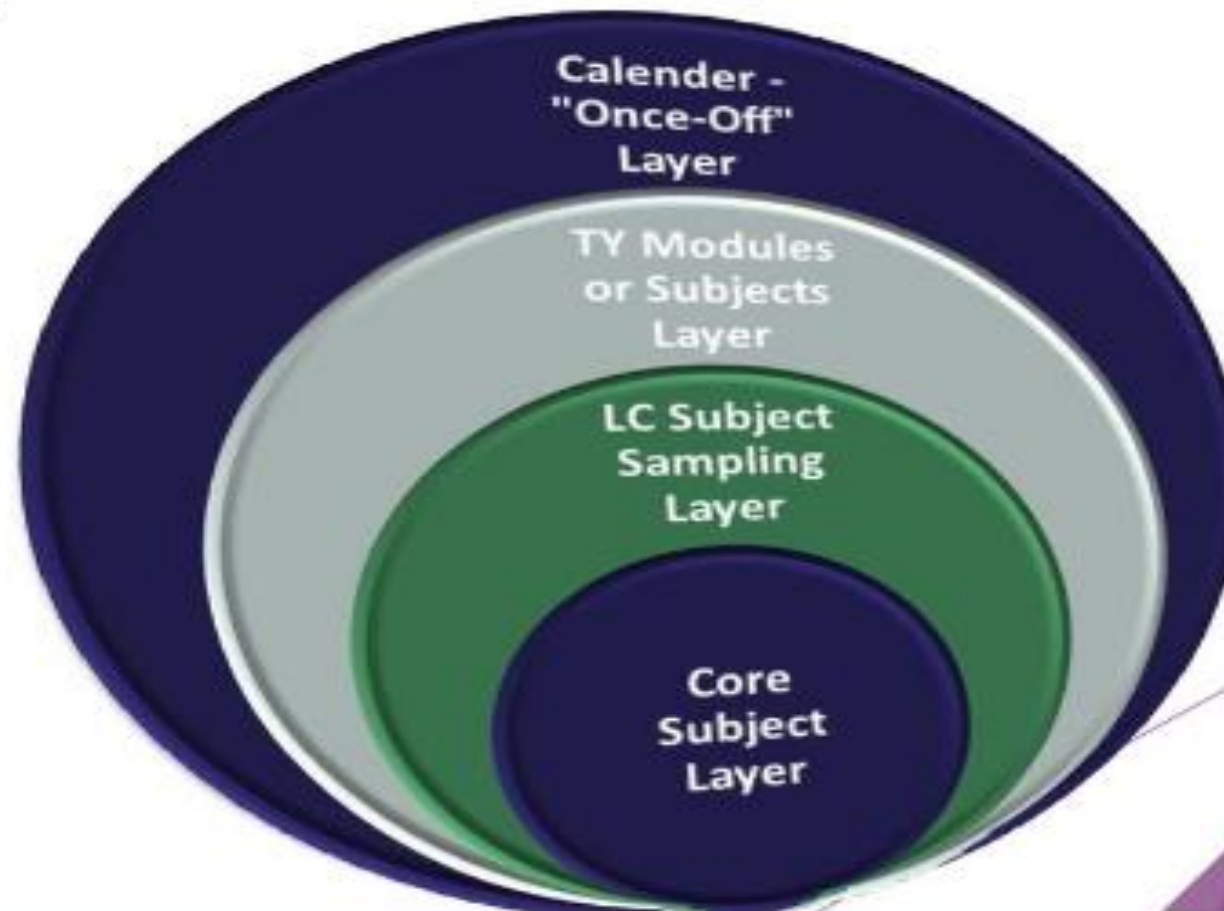


TRANSITION YEAR

- A one-year school-based programme between Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle
- Designed to act as a bridge between the two by facilitating the smooth transition from the more dependant learning of the Junior Cycle to the more independent self-directed learning required for Senior Cycle

Four Layers of a Transition Year Programme

"The Onion"





Once-Off Layer

- Work experience placements
- Visiting speakers
- Outdoor pursuits
- Excursions
- Field trips
- Community care – Localise Youth
- Volunteering Programme
- Focus Ireland Sleep out
- Pieta House – Darkness Into Light
- Gaeltacht
- Tenderfoot/Gaisce/Bridge to College/Walk in my Shoes



TY Modules / Subjects Layer

- Science Communications
- Law Education (online)
- Restorative Practice
- SPHE
- Guidance
- Development Education
- First Aid
- Drama
- Coding (ICT)
- GAA Future Leaders
- LIFT Programme
- Microsoft Office Specialist



LC Subject Sampling

- Technology
- Design & Communication Graphics
- Art
- World of Business
- Music
- History
- Politics
- Geography
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Home Economics





Core Subject Layer

- All students study –
- Mathematics
- English
- Irish
- Modern Language (French/German)
- Religion
- PE
- SPHE
- Guidance



TY ASSESSMENT & CREDIT SYSTEM

TY ASSESSMENT

- Portfolio Assessment
- Oral/aural assessment
- Project work
- Self-assessment
- Peer-assessment
- Written/practical class tests
- Skills assessment

TY CREDIT SYSTEM

In total there are 500 credits to be awarded		
Credits	Percentage	Grade Awarded
375-500	75-100%	Distinction
250-374	50-74%	Merit
150-249	30-49%	Pass
0-149	<30%	Fail

TY WORK EXPERIENCE



- Two weeks in February (preceding the mid-term break)
- Students are responsible for finding their own work placement
- Book placements early as there is a high demand
- A variety of placements is recommended
- Garda vetting required if working with children or vulnerable adults





TY COST

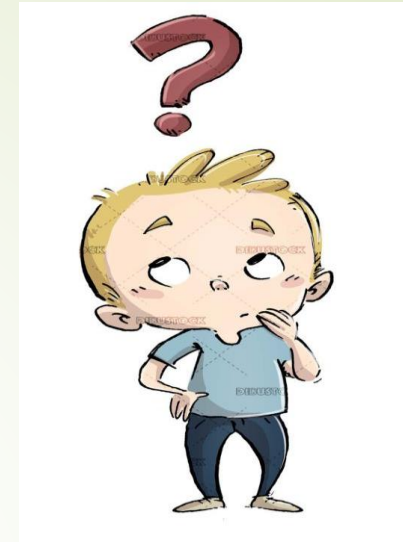
- TY Fee is €300-€350
 - Cost of international trips are extra (ranges from €500-€600)
 - Some ad-hoc trips may incur an additional small cost
 - Home economics ingredients
-
- HFCS commits to being flexible and transparent regarding costs. We will strive to achieve a balance between a richly rewarding programme and value for money.



Activities/Projects/Outings

- Retreat – Avon Ri
- TY EXPO RDS
- Local Community Involvement – Localise
- Go Quest
- Gaisce
- Bowling
- Shoe Box Appeal
- Barista Course
- Science Week demonstration for HFCS National School
- Dublin Zoo
- Gaeltacht
- Focus Ireland Sleep-Out
- Darkness Into Light
- Forensics
- School of Life
- STG Development Education Day with our Primary Schools
- Amber Flag

Who Should Do TY?



- Someone who is still undecided about their future and wants time to decide
- Someone who wants a chance to build up their CV
- Someone who wants to become more confident, mature & independent
- Someone who is young in the year group
- Someone who is willing to get involved in group activities and project work
- Someone who wants to gain additional skills



- Thank you for joining us this evening
- We hope that we have provided you with some information to help you make the correct decision regarding Senior Cycle
- Year Heads will be visiting Third and TY classes over the coming days to support students
- We encourage students to talk to the Career Guidance Dept., their teachers and their parents/guardians to get advice
- Please email info@hfcs.ie if you have any further questions

*Thank
you*

