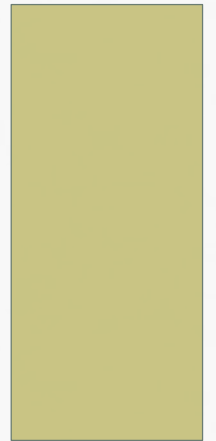


***SENIOR CYCLE OPTIONS***  
***2018 - 2020***

***ANN MARIE O'RIORDAN***  
***GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR***



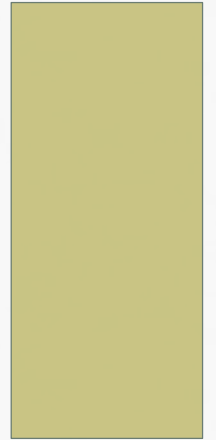
# GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

- **Subjects at Senior Cycle**
- **Subject Requirements for Studying at Third Level**
- **How the Subject Choice Process Works and the Application Form**

# QUESTIONS

- **Should I do Transition Year (4<sup>th</sup> Year)?**
- **Should I go to 5<sup>th</sup> Year?**
- **If 5<sup>th</sup> Year, should I do Leaving Cert Applied or Established LC?**
- **If Established LC, what subjects?**

*CHOOSING SUBJECTS  
FOR SENIOR CYCLE*



# JUNIOR CERTIFICATE

- **Core Subjects**
- **2 Options**

# CORE SUBJECTS AT LEAVING CERT

- **Gaeilge**
- **English**
- **Mathematics**

**Core + 4 Option Subjects**

**Other non-exam subjects**

# CHOOSING A SUBJECT...

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Year Options:**

**Because you like it**

# CHOOSING A SUBJECT...

- **5<sup>th</sup> Year Options:**

**Because you like it**

**Because you need it**



SUBJECTS AVAILABLE AT  
SENIOR CYCLE

# LEAVING CERT SUBJECTS IN CCS

## Business

- Accounting
- Economics
- Business

## Science

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Computer Science - **NEW**

## Practical

- Construction Studies
- DCG
- Engineering

## Languages

- French
- German

## Humanities

- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- Politics and Society - **NEW**

## Creative

- Art
- Music

# CORE SUBJECTS

- Maths
  - 25 bonus points available for higher level maths at grades H6 and above
  - Most engineering degree courses demand higher level Maths (H4)
- Irish
  - Oral exam worth 40%
  - H4 in Irish for Primary Teaching courses
- English
  - Good higher level subject for the majority of students

# PRACTICAL SUBJECTS

- Construction Studies
  - Replaces woodwork at Junior Cert.
  - Looks at domestic buildings and covers construction technology, materials and practices.
  - Project, practical and theory exam

# PRACTICAL SUBJECTS

- Engineering
  - Replaces Metalwork at Junior Cert. It involves the study of mechanical engineering processes, materials and technology applications along with developing practical skills.
  - The course is divided into a Practical section and a Theoretical section- Materials technology.
  - Project, practical and theory exam
  - Check details on subject departments link on school web site [www.carrigcs.ie](http://www.carrigcs.ie)

# PRACTICAL SUBJECTS

- Design & Communications Graphics
  - Replaces Technical Graphics at Junior Cert.
  - This develops students skills at drawing, awareness of design, levels of comprehension, analysis and problem solving.
  - Project involving 2D and 3D CAD worth 40% of the final exam

# BUSINESS SUBJECTS

- Business
- Accounting
- Economics

**No requirement to have a leaving cert business subject in order to study Business / Commerce at 3<sup>rd</sup> level. However it would be helpful.**

# BUSINESS SUBJECTS

- Business

- This looks at how organisations are formed, financed and run. There are modules of business laws and international environments.
- It looks at the services that support businesses such as banking, transport, taxation and public sector organisations.
- It provides an excellent foundation for anyone thinking of business as a career.
- Students should be interested in the business news
- Heavy learning subject – not an easy option



# BUSINESS SUBJECTS

- Accounting
  - Students who enjoyed the book-keeping element of Junior Cert Business Studies should consider taking Accounting.
  - Accounting is concerned with keeping records, analysing them and interpreting them.
  - Students should have strong numeracy and logical reasoning skills

# BUSINESS SUBJECTS

- Economics
  - Looks at the flow of money and the measuring of success and progress in companies, business, states and the EU.
  - Macro and micro economics are studied.
  - Students should be interested in the business news and current economic trends.

# SCIENCE SUBJECTS

- Junior cert science splits into 3 subjects:
  - Biology
  - Chemistry
  - Physics

# SCIENCE SUBJECTS

- Biology
  - Biology is the study of life and living things from micro-organisms to humans.
  - The course is a continuation of what was studied at Junior Cycle but in more detail.
  - Heavy learning subject
  - Often perceived as an easy subject – not so!

# SCIENCE SUBJECTS

- Chemistry
  - Chemistry looks at the world around us and investigates the composition of matter, the laws of chemical change and the relationship between the properties and composition of substances.
  - Required for Medicine, Pharmacy and Dentistry in UCC, and Veterinary in UCD.
  - Not specifically required for studying science at third level but very helpful - Core science subject

# SCIENCE SUBJECTS

- Physics

- Physics describes the laws and forces governing natural phenomena like light, heat, electricity, magnetism.
- Uses maths and equations.
- Practical element – 24 experiments (30% of the final exam).
- Important for studying engineering, electronics, technology, medical areas.

# LANGUAGES

- French
- German
  - Oral exam in both – 25% HL, 20% OL
  - Possible to study both languages - need to be exceptionally strong student
  - Don't have to take a language but this will have implications for studying some courses in NUI colleges (UCC, UCD, NUIG, Maynooth)
  - Students continue the language they studied at Junior Cert

# CREATIVE SUBJECTS

- Art
  - Involves practical work – craft work, imaginative composition and still life, and art history & art appreciation
  - Art history & art appreciation is worth 37.5 % of the marks
  - Practical art exams are completed in May
- Music
  - Music covers topics like composition, aural work, study of composers, preparation for practical.
  - There is also a practical part to the exam so having proficiency in an instrument or in voice is required.



# HUMANITIES

- Geography
  - Geography is concerned with the interrelationship between human activities and the physical environment.
  - It includes the study of economic activities, farming, industry, pollution, statistics, resources, landscapes and communications.
  - It also involves project work (worth 20% of final exam)
  - Very popular subjects – students who are willing to work hard can get a high grade

# HUMANITIES

- History
  - Covers Irish (1970 – 1949), European (1920 to 1945) and American (1945 – 1990) history
  - Students develop critical thinking and analytical skills.
  - It involves the study of documentary evidence (worth 20%).
  - Research project – worth 20% of the final exam - on any aspect of history students are interested in.

# SOCIAL

- Home Economics
  - Covers nutrition and food science, consumer issues and sociology.
  - Practical cookery journal completed in 5<sup>th</sup> year worth 20% - record of all classes and research on set tasks done as part of the course.
  - Open to boys and girls!

# POLITICS & SOCIETY

- **New subject in CCS in 2018**
- The course is about the social systems within which people act locally, nationally and more widely.
- Students look at the concepts underpinning contemporary systems of government and the roles of groups such as multinational companies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and intergovernmental bodies, in shaping the world we live in.
- Politics and Society aims to develop the student's ability to be a reflective and active citizen

# POLITICS & SOCIETY

## Suitable students:

- Any student who is interested in areas such as human rights, equality, diversity, sustainable development, power and democratic decision-making.
- Those who want to become a more informed and active global citizen
- Gives students a real insight into people, power and how society works.

# POLITICS & SOCIETY

4 main areas covered in topics as follows:

- **Power and decision-making**
- **Active citizenship**
- **Human rights and responsibilities**
- **Globalisation and localisation**

Assessment:

80 % exam based

20% project – citizen project report

# POLITICS & SOCIETY

- <https://vimeo.com/250248127>

# COMPUTER SCIENCE

- **New Subject in CCS 2018**

- Once of 40 pilot schools across the country

Student will learn about:

- Computational thinking & problem solving
  - Take a problem, brainstorm and automate a solution
- Programming languages
  - Python and Javascript
- Designing and collaboration
  - Creating digital products individually and in teams
- Computers and society
  - Students will learn about the impacts of computing technologies on humans and society



# COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Assessment
  - 70% final exam
  - 30% project
- Suitable for those who have an aptitude for Maths, Physics and English
- No requirement for maths but you have to like maths and working with numbers
- For those who like solving problems and are logical thinkers

# COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Key skills students will learn:
  - How to collaborate with others – team work
  - Presentation skills
  - Problem solving
  - Prototype design
  - Transferable skills
- Currently under review by the Universities with regard to meeting entry requirements. Likely that it will meet the requirements for Science and Engineering courses.

# COMPUTER SCIENCE

- <https://www.ncca.ie/en/senior-cycle/senior-cycle-developments/subjects-and-frameworks-in-development/computer-science>

# ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS

- Applied Maths
- Agricultural Science

Both available through our Junior Adult Education Department depending on demand

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY  
TO THIRD LEVEL

# ENTRY TO THIRD LEVEL

- 3 conditions needed:
  - Meet minimum entry requirements
  - Meet specific subject requirements
  - Points
    - Points are calculated on your best **6** subjects

# NEW COMMON POINTS SCALE

- New points system introduced in 2017
- New grading scale:

<b>New Grades</b>	<b>% Marks</b>
<b>H1 / O1</b>	90-100
<b>H2 / O2</b>	80<90
<b>H3 / O3</b>	70<80
<b>H4 / O4</b>	60<70
<b>H5 / O5</b>	50<60
<b>H6 / O6</b>	40<50
<b>H7 / O7</b>	30<40
<b>H8 / O8</b>	0<30

# NEW COMMON POINTS SCALE

Higher		Ordinary	
Grade	Points	Grade	Points
H1	100		
H2	88		
H3	77		
H4	66		
H5	56	O1	56
H6	46	O2	46
H7	37	O3	37
H8	0	O4	28
		O5	20
		O6	12
		O7	0
		O8	0



# THIRD LEVEL CHOICES

<b>Option</b>	<b>Qualification</b>	<b>NFQ Level</b>
University (UCC)	Hons Degree	8
Institute of Technology (CIT)	Hons Degree	8
	Ord Degree	7
	Higher Cert	6
Further College of Education (Cork College of Commerce )	QQI Qualification	5 (one year course) 6 (two year course)

# MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS - UNIVERSITY

- Level 8 (honours degree programmes) require:
  - a minimum of 6 subjects to include:
    - 2 subjects at H5
    - and a minimum of 4 subjects at O6/H7.
- UCC requires passes in English & Irish for all faculties
- Maths required for most courses

# MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS - UNIVERSITY

- Third language required for Arts, Social Science, Medicine and Health, Law and Business courses
- Third language is not required for Science, Engineering and Nursing courses in UCC
- This applies to NUI colleges – UCC, UCD, NUIG, Maynooth

# MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS - INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY

- Level 8 courses:
  - a minimum of 6 subjects to include:
    - 2 subjects at H5
    - and a minimum of 4 subjects at O6/H7.
  - Maths and either English or Irish.
  - Other course specific requirements (eg maths)
- Level 6/ 7 courses:
  - a minimum of 5 subjects at least at grade O6 /H7 to include Irish or English and Maths.

# SPECIFIC SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

# ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCE, LAW, BUSINESS UCC

<b>Arts Faculty &amp; Social Science</b>	English, Irish Third language Some specific reqs may apply
<b>Commerce, Accounting, Finance, BIS, Government</b>	English, Irish, Maths Third language
<b>Law Pathways</b>	English, Irish Third language
<b>Law &amp; Business</b>	English, Irish, Maths Third language

# SCIENCE / MEDICAL / VETERINARY

<b>Medicine UCC</b>	Chemistry H4 plus Biology/Physics H4
<b>Dentistry UCC</b>	Chemistry H4 plus Biology/Physics H4
<b>Pharmacy UCC</b>	Chemistry H5 plus Biology /Physics H4
<b>Medical &amp; Health Sciences UCC</b>	Chemistry H4 plus 1 Science subject
<b>Science UCC</b>	1 Science subject or Maths H4

# SCIENCE / MEDICAL / VETERINARY

<b>Genetics UCC</b>	Biology H4
<b>Speech and Language Therapy UCC</b>	Science subject H4 and language other than English H4
<b>Occupational Therapy UCC</b>	Science subject H4
<b>Nursing UCC</b>	Science subject H4
<b>Veterinary in UCD</b>	Chemistry H5
<b>Physiotherapy UL</b>	Science subject H7 / O6



# ENGINEERING

<b>Engineering UCC</b>	Science subject H4 and Maths H4
<b>Engineering CIT</b>	Check specific courses for Maths requirements

# LANGUAGES

<b>Commerce with French UCC</b>	French H3
<b>Commerce International UCC</b>	Language other than English H3
<b>Law and French UCC</b>	French H3
<b>Law and Irish UCC</b>	Irish H3
<b>World Languages UCC</b>	Language other than English H3

# FURTHER EDUCATION COLLEGES

- Some specific subject requirements for courses in Further Education Colleges –
  - Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa
  - Cork College of Commerce
  - St Johns College

# RESEARCH

- Check college prospectuses
- [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)
- [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)
- [www.ucc.ie](http://www.ucc.ie)
- [www.cit.ie](http://www.cit.ie)

# HOW TO PICK SUBJECTS

# GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT...

- 100 % Exam Based:
  - Biology
  - Physics
  - Chemistry
  - Economics
  - Business
  - Accounting
  
- English
- Maths

# GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT...

<b>DGC</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>40%</b>	
	<b>Final Exam - Theory</b>	<b>60%</b>	
<b>Construction</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>25% HL</b>	<b>30% OL</b>
	<b>Practical Exam (May)</b>	<b>25% HL</b>	<b>30% OL</b>
	<b>Final Exam - Theory</b>	<b>50% HL</b>	<b>40% OL</b>
<b>Engineering</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>25% HL</b>	<b>30% OL</b>
	<b>Practical Exam (May)</b>	<b>25% HL</b>	<b>30% OL</b>
	<b>Final Exam - Theory</b>	<b>50% HL</b>	<b>40% OL</b>

# GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT...

<b>French &amp; German</b>	<b>Oral</b>	<b>25 % HL</b>	<b>20% OL</b>
	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>75 % HL</b>	<b>80% OL</b>
<b>Irish</b>	<b>Oral</b>	<b>40%</b>	
	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>60%</b>	
<b>Home Economics</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>20%</b>	
	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>80%</b>	
<b>Geography</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>20%</b>	
	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>80%</b>	
<b>History</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>20%</b>	
	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>80%</b>	



# GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT...

<b>Music</b>	<b>Performance</b>	<b>25%</b>
	<b>Listening</b>	<b>25%</b>
	<b>Composing</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>ART</b>	<b>Final Exam – Art Hist &amp; Appreciation</b>	<b>37.5%</b>
	<b>Craft Exam</b>	<b>25%</b>
	<b>Imaginative Composition / Still Life</b>	<b>25%</b>
	<b>Life Drawing</b>	<b>12.5%</b>
<b>Politics &amp; Society</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>20%</b>
	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>Computer Science</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>30%</b>
	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>70%</b>

# DATS – DIFFERENTIAL APTITUDE TESTS

- All 4<sup>th</sup> year students given the opportunity to take DATs in preparation for subject choice and planning for future careers
- DATs are aptitude tests measuring:
  - **Verbal Reasoning**
  - **Numerical Reasoning**
  - **Abstract Reasoning**
  - **Perceptual Speed & Accuracy**
  - **Mechanical Reasoning**
  - **Space Relations**
  - **Spelling**
  - **Language Usage**

# DATS – DIFFERENTIAL APTITUDE TESTS

- Results indicate strengths and weaknesses
- Results can be used to help decide on subjects for senior cycle
- Remember DATs are just one piece of the picture

# HOW TO SELECT THE RIGHT SUBJECTS

- Do....
  - Select subjects you enjoy
  - Select subjects you are good at and performed well in at Junior Cert
- Do Not.....
  - Select a subject because friends are doing it
  - Pick a subject because you get on with a particular teacher

# SUBJECT CHOICE – THINK ABOUT....

- Your daughter / son.....
  - Their hobbies and interests
  - Future plans
  - Essential subjects
  - Helpful subjects
  - Previous results – how they got on at Junior Cert
  - Subjects they enjoy and are good at
  - Focus on their strengths

# THE 'SAFE' RANGE

- Gaeilge
- English
- Mathematics
  
- Language
- Science subject

Plus 2 others

# SUBJECT CHOICE – FINAL TIPS

- Before you take the plunge.....
  - Seek advice from older students, siblings
  - Look up subject textbooks
  - Look up exam papers – [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie)
  - Talk to subject teachers
  - Choose subjects you like and are good at
  - Check college requirements
  - Do some research - check web sites:
    - [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)
    - [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)
  - Speak with Guidance Counsellor

# THE PROCESS

- Students select their subjects and complete the application form
  - They select their top 6 subjects in order of preference
  - Students have a free choice
  - There are **no restrictions** on subject selection
- We then create subject pools based on the requirements of all the students.
- **All** students received their top 4 choices in 2017.



# SUBJECT POOLS 2017

<b>Biology</b>	<b>Art</b>	<b>Physics</b>	<b>Economics</b>	<b>Business</b>	<b>French</b>
<b>Engineering</b>	<b>German</b>	<b>Geography</b>			

<b>Engineering</b>	<b>Biology</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>Accounting</b>	<b>German</b>	<b>French</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>Biology</b>	<b>Geography</b>			

<b>Biology</b>	<b>Art</b>	<b>Home Ecn</b>	<b>Chemistry</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>French</b>
<b>DCG</b>	<b>German</b>	<b>Geography</b>			

<b>Biology</b>	<b>Music</b>	<b>Home Ecn</b>	<b>Chemistry</b>	<b>Business</b>	<b>French</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>Physics</b>	<b>Geography</b>			

# NEXT STEPS.....

- 5<sup>th</sup> Yr Subjects listed in order of preference from 1- 6
- LCVP Application Form completed
- Signed by both parent and student
- Closing Date:
  - **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March**