



Cashel Community School

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Senior Cycle Programmes

www.cashelcommunityschool.ie



Senior Student Council 2017 / 2018

CASHEL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Senior Cycle Courses

The pre-examinations have concluded and Third Year students are assessing their performances in the hope that they can improve their overall results in the Junior Certificate examination in June. Transition Year students have completed their final session of work experience and thoughts of next year are now looming large on the horizon. In the midst of this very busy time they have to consider their options for the senior cycle. This booklet is designed to enable the students, in conjunction with their parents/guardians and teachers, to make an informed decision about their future education. Third Year students can apply to take the Transition Year programme or progress into Fifth Year where two Leaving Certificate programmes are offered, i.e. the Leaving Certificate (Established) or the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme. The current Transition Year students, no doubt wiser and more informed than this time last year, will also find this booklet helpful.



Cashel Community School provides a comprehensive range of programmes and subjects at senior cycle, thereby accommodating the needs and talents of all our students. We are endeavouring to ensure that students reach their full potential so that they are prepared for life and are able to take their place in society. The very broad range of subjects allow our students to be prepared for varied career opportunities. Boys and girls have equal access to the full range of academic, business, scientific, technical and vocational subjects which are on offer.

This booklet is intended to act as a useful reference point for students embarking on senior cycle or progressing into Fifth Year. The information contained in the booklet will be supplemented by information sessions for students and parents, together with ongoing support and advice from the Career Guidance department.



Young Social Innovators

Transition Year

Transition Year is an extra year at senior cycle, which allows the student space to mature as a person, develop a wide range of skills and experience the adult world of work. It is a year of opportunity for the student to become a more self confident, competent and efficient person. It allows the student to develop him/herself as a person and have a more enlightened sense of direction in his/her own life. With a positive attitude and a willingness to participate it can be the most important formal educational experience in the life of a student. However, what a student gets out of it depends on what he or she is willing to put into it.

Content

- 1 The **core subjects** of Irish, English, Maths, French and/or German are studied intensely so that the student has a solid foundation for the Leaving Certificate programme. Physical Education, Religion, Career Guidance and Computer Skills are taught throughout the year.
- 2 To give the student the opportunity to study a broad range of subjects the following are taught on a **modular** basis i.e. short courses: - Engineering, Construction, Local History, Geography, Spanish, Drama, Music, Art, Science, Business, Accounting, Mini Company, Economics, Social & Scientific, Personal Development, Road Safety and Design & Communication Graphics. Project work is an integral part of each module.
- 3 **Work experience** is an important component of the programme. It involves a total of three weeks. The student is prepared and monitored and given the opportunity to evaluate the benefits of the experience.
- 4 **Voluntary Community Involvement:** This is a vital element of T.Y. whereby the student takes an active part in the local community: - Scoil Aonghusa, Nagle Centre, St. John the Baptist Girls' & Boys' Primary Schools, St. Patrick's Hospital and Day Care Centre, Cashel Library, Spafield Resource Centre, The Deanery Primary School, St. Teresa's Nursing Home – thus raising awareness of other people and how they live.
- 5 A wide range of **activities** is organised throughout the year, which allows the student to develop his/her talents and become a more mature, healthy and competent person. Such activities include outdoor pursuits, workshops, musical, guest speakers, competitions, interaction with T.Y. students from other schools and outings to exhibitions, theatre, cinema and museum. An opportunity to do a certified course in basic First Aid is also provided.
- 6 There is ongoing **assessment** of each student and a report is sent home on three occasions during the year. On the completion of the programme a certificate is awarded to each student in one of the following categories: excellence, distinction, commendation, merit and participation.
- 7 Each student chooses a dedicated project for the year in one of the following areas: Business, Music, Art, Young Scientist Competition, Young Social Innovators.

Benefits

- T.Y. allows students to realise their potential.
- It enables students to make more informed choices for Fifth Year.
- The programme creates the opportunity for students to become more mature i.e. responsible, competent, independent, disciplined and confident.
- Students become more socially competent and able to interact with their peers.
- Students develop a greater social awareness.
- Students develop a greater understanding and sense of the work place.
- It is evident that the students who have taken the T.Y. programme progress through senior cycle as more self-reliant learners than their peers.
- Students benefit from the broad range of educational experiences in the T.Y. programme.
- A scientific study carried out by the N.C.C.A. has found that T.Y. students perform better academically and are more "educationally adventurous" i.e. more likely to take subjects at higher level, move from foundation to ordinary level and ordinary to higher level.

Aine Bourke and Colin McEniry

SENIOR STUDENTS ON TRANSITION YEAR

Aine says: Last year I decided to do Transition Year and I can honestly say it was one of the best decisions I have made. It is a year where there is significantly less exam focus which I feel allows a student to develop as a person. The various trips, activities and workshops enable you to mature with your peers, gain new skills, while also helping you to determine what subjects and indeed maybe what careers you would like to pursue after school. Some highlights of TY for me would have to include the trips to Paris, Blackwater Outdoor Activity Centre and the National Ploughing Championships. I also thoroughly enjoyed completing the first aid course, match reporting and doing voluntary work each week in different places in town. Work experience was very valuable to me in showing me what careers would suit me, and perhaps more importantly what definitely wouldn't suit me! I would encourage all students to do Transition Year, remembering the more you put into it, the more you will benefit from it.



Colin says: Doing Transition Year was one of the best decisions I have made. It gave me an eye-opener on what it is like to work in the real world and it gave me the skills I needed to progress. It gave me the opportunity to become more innovative as well as creative, along with other desirable characteristics. I really enjoyed the practical side of Transition Year when we visited places like the BT Young Scientists Exhibition, The Ploughing Championships and our trip to Paris. My personal favourite was our trip to Blackwater Activity Centre, Co. Cork. Transition Year also helps create a better understanding in relation to which subjects you would like to keep on for Leaving Cert. The more you put into Transition Year, the more you will get out of it.

The Leaving Certificate

(ESTABLISHED)

This Leaving Certificate programme provides continuity with and progression from the Junior Certificate programme. It offers a wide range of subjects at ordinary and higher levels. In addition, Mathematics and Irish are also offered at foundation level. It prepares students for the requirements of further education or training, for employment and for their role as active, participative and enterprising members of society.

Content

- 1 Each student studies the core subjects Irish, English and Mathematics.
- 2 The student takes four subjects from the following list:
French, German, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Agricultural Science, Accounting, Business, Economics, Construction, Engineering, Design and Communication Graphics, History, Geography, Social and Scientific, Art and Music.
- 3 All students take Careers, Computers, Physical Education and Religion.

Subject Choices

- Students make preliminary subject choices during the second term each year.
- The seventeen optional subjects are then arranged into four option blocks, which reflect the overall demand by the students of that year.
- During the third term students select one subject from each of the four option blocks.
- The objective of this process is to maximise the number of students who obtain their first four or possible five initial preferences.
- Certain subjects are essential for entry to particular courses, colleges and careers. It is important that the student is aware of this. This information is well documented in college literature and is available in the careers room. If in doubt, please contact the career guidance counsellor.

Benefits

- The subjects are recognised in point terms by Universities and Institutes of Technology.
- It allows the student to focus on an area of study, which may provide the basis for a specific career.
- A student who is unsure of a future career has the opportunity of taking a wide range of subjects, which will allow him/her to decide at a later date.

- The student acquires knowledge and understanding of a wide range of subjects.
- A wide range of skills is acquired which equips the student to cope, thrive and contribute to the well-being of society.
- It is the terminal examination for the vast majority of school leavers and is a reference point for agencies and individuals involved in employment, training and further education.



Cashel Enterprise Entrepreneurs

The Leaving Certificate

VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme is a response to meet the growing demands of a rapidly changing work and business environment. It sets out to ensure that young people get a broad education and have the ability to cope, adapt and thrive in this world of rapid change. A spirit of enterprise is fostered in the student while at the same time interpersonal, vocational and technological skills are developed. It incorporates an added vocational dimension to the Leaving Certificate (established) by focusing on the world of work, enterprise, the local community and self-directed learning. This is achieved through a combination of classroom teaching and activity based learning.

Content

- 1** LCVP students take seven Leaving Certificate subjects, which must include Irish, English and a third language.
- 2** Two of the Leaving Certificate subjects are selected from a vocational grouping of subjects designed by the Dept. of Education and Skills.
- 3** Two Link Modules, namely Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education, are studied.

Benefits

- The student becomes innovative, creative and enterprising.
- Gains experience of working as part of a team.



LCVP students

- Job-seeking skills are improved and the student acquires a greater understanding of the world of work.
- A high degree of efficiency in the use of Information and Communications Technologies is attained.
- Organisational, communicative, decision-making and social skills are cultivated.
- The student appreciates the importance of education, training and long-term learning.
- The Link Modules are recognised in **point terms** by Universities and Institutes of Technology as follows:

Distinction 66 points

Merit 46 points

Pass 28 points

Assessment

The two Link Modules are treated as one unit for assessment purposes. It comprises of a written examination at the end of the two-year programme, which is worth 40% while a portfolio of course work carries 60%.

Grades awarded are as follows:

Distinction (80 – 100%)

Merit (65 – 79%)

Pass (50 – 64%)

Current Students' Views

LCVP is helping me to develop my organisational and computer skills.

It has given me a great insight into the business world.

It has opened up the world of work, the enterprise world and the wider community to me.

I find the research both enjoyable and interesting. It has given me an idea of real life – writing letters, arranging meetings and talking to people.

Doing this programme requires commitment.

The majority of the work is done during class time.

The career investigation gave me a great insight into my preferred career.

I have become more responsible for my own learning.

Teamwork helps you to know the students quite well in your class.

I have learned how to plan.

Writing reports and developing my computer skills will be useful in college.

It helps to develop your confidence and communication skills as you do a lot of research and meet a lot of people.

The points from the Link Modules could make all the difference when getting into college.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE POINTS SCORING SYSTEM:

Grades and points to be introduced in 2017:

New Leaving Certificate Grading Scale		New Points at HIGHER LEVEL	New Points at ORDINARY LEVEL
90 – 100	H1 / O1	100	56
80 – 89	H2 / O2	88	46
70 – 79	H3 / O3	77	37
60 – 69	H4 / O4	66	28
50 – 59	H5 / O5	56	20
40 – 49	H6 / O6	46	12
30 – 39	H7 / O7	37	0
0 – 29	H8 / O8		

(Additional information from Irish Universities Association: www.iaa.ie)

Advice

Maths: A pass in Ordinary Level Maths is essential for entry to the majority of courses. The 5000 students who fail to secure a grade D in Ordinary Level are in a difficult situation. Do not neglect study in this subject.

3rd Language & Science Subjects: A decision to drop all Science subjects or continental languages will have major implications on the range of careers open to you later on.



Beauty and the Beast