



Cashel Community School

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Senior Cycle Programmes

www.cashelcommunityschool.ie



Senior Student Council 2019 / 2020

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.



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:** Due to strict vetting rules, since 2016, a student must be aged 16 and vetted, to work with children/vulnerable people. During the 19/20 academic year, TY students, vetted during the year, were asked to secure voluntary work during the Easter holidays. Students under 16, were permitted to seek voluntary work also, once they adhered to vetting rules. This was verified and monitored by the centres involved and the school authorities.
- 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, Drama, G.A.A. Future Leaders.

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.

Edel Walsh and Cole Flanagan

SENIOR STUDENTS ON TRANSITION YEAR

Edel says: Transition Year was an incredible experience and I am so glad that I made the decision to take part in this programme. I feel I grew so much throughout the year and it greatly assisted me in making subject choices for fifth year. I had so many great experiences during the year. I would have to say one of my highlights of the year was participating in Junk Kouture and making it to the semi finals in UL. The opportunity to get on a stage in front of two thousand people was amazing and helped boost my confidence massively. I later got to take part in the school show which again was a brilliant experience. TY gave me a well needed break from normal academic work. I believe my time in TY helped me grow as a person and put me in a stronger position for fifth year. I would definitely recommend everyone to do TY and get involved as much as possible. The more you put into Transition Year, the more you get out of it.

Cole says: One of the best decisions I have made is participating in the Transition Year Programme. It allowed me to take a break from normal academic schoolwork while also putting emphasis on work outside the classroom, with the opportunity of work experience and voluntary work, and the various trips such as Carlingford and the Ploughing Championships, and the opportunity to go abroad where we went to Barcelona. It allowed me to put more dedication into extracurricular, such as music where I participated as King Herod in the 25th anniversary production of Jesus Christ Superstar, and was given the opportunity to choreograph for the selected Junk Kouture entrants. Academics are not completely ignored with the core subjects being provided along with module-based subjects that alternate such as accounting, history, etc. I would recommend doing the TY Programme to any student as it allows development in confidence and remember that what you put in to TY is what 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.



Leadership Day in CCS



Carol Singing



Lourdes Students

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 were 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.



Cast of The Addams Family