



# **Coláiste Chríost Rí**

**Senior Cycle Option Subjects**

***Information Booklet***

## Introduction

This booklet contains **some** information about all the subjects on offer to the boys in Coláiste Chríost Rí. It is not intended to be an exhaustive set of information; the boys will still need to conduct their own research on the subjects they intend to pursue.

### **Tips for subject choice:**

- *Look at the subject textbook and past exam papers*
- *Talk to the Guidance Counsellor*
- *Talk to subject teachers*

### **When choosing subjects students should consider:**

- *What their favourite subjects are*
- *Their ability at the subject*
- *Future Career and University aspirations.*

**All students must do English, Irish (unless exempt), and Maths and then four option subjects from the following:**

## Physics

Leaving Cert Physics is the study of the physical world in which we live and the forces and interactions which govern it. Concerned not so much with 'what is so' but rather 'why' it is so. It deals with such topics as Mechanics, Sound, Heat and Temperature, Light and Electricity. The subject is practically based with a large number of mandatory student experiments.

**Is Physics for you?** If you have a genuine interest in the above topics interests you then you should consider it. Also being comfortable with maths and having an inquisitive mind helps.

If you are thinking about Engineering, Medicine, Electronics or Technology as a future career then physics would be a very useful subject to have.

## Biology:

Biology is concerned with the Study of Life, The Cell and the Organism. Topics covered include, Characteristics of Life, Nutrition, Study of Ecosystems and General Principles of Ecology, the Vascular Structures and the Breathing System.

**Is Biology for you?** Students should have a genuine interest in Science and an interest in how the body works. There is a significant amount of learning off to be done so an ability to retain information would also be important.

If you are thinking of a career in Medicine, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Zoology, Food Science or biotechnology and many more then Biology would be very useful.

## Chemistry:

Chemistry involves a problem solving approach to the world of chemicals, atomic structure, how and why different chemical reactions occur, the rates at which reactions occur and the history of chemicals and the periodic table. There is a big emphasis on practical work where students carry out 28 mandatory experiments and record and analyse the data collected.

**Is Chemistry for you?** If you have good analytical and logical skills and like carrying out investigative experiments then it will suit you. An ideal student will have an interest in how chemicals are used and a keen eye for detail. Chemistry is a **compulsory requirement** for students interested in studying Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Dietetics and Veterinary. It is recommended for all Science and Engineering courses.

## French:

French as a Leaving Cert subject aims to bring students closer to fluency in the French language, as well as developing a good knowledge of literature, culture, geography, and national history to provide a context for communication. It builds on the knowledge acquired for the Junior Certificate. This subject is a requirement for entry into a number of third level courses. Students are assessed through aural, oral and written examinations for the Leaving Cert.

**Is French for me?** A third language is a requirement of a number of departments in the NUI colleges -- University College Cork (UCC), University College Dublin (UCD), NUI Galway and NUI Maynooth. The phrase, third language, refers to a language other than English and Irish. Departments in NUI colleges that require students to have a language include or Arts, Human Sciences, Law, Social Science, Commerce, Medicine and Health Sciences and some other degrees. A third language is not required for engineering or agriculture in these colleges. It is important that students check entry requirements for any course they are thinking of doing as not having a third language will automatically eliminate your ability to apply for certain courses. Specific careers in which French would be of benefit include teaching, translation, interpreting, journalism and media.

## **Accounting:**

Leaving Cert Accounting is a continuation of the Book Keeping Section of the Junior Cert Business Course. It provides a valuable foundation for all business functions and many of the top executives in Irish Business have an accounting background. Some of the main topics covered are Financial Accounting, Management Accounting, Cash Flow Statements, Cash Budgeting and Marginal Costing.

**Is Accounting for you?** If you are conscientious and thorough and enjoy the detailed analysis of figures and data then Accounting will suit you. While not required for Commerce or other Business related courses at Third Level it is highly recommended for those students interested in pursuing a career in the business world.

## **Business:**

The main topics covered in the Leaving Cert Business course are People in Business, Taxation and Insurance, Marketing, Enterprise and the Business Environment-Domestic and International.

**Is Business for you?** Pupils will benefit greatly from studying this course as it covers information that is practical and relevant to everyone's daily life. Students who did not study Junior Cert Business can take up Business for Senior Cycle and will not be at a disadvantage; however, they would want to have an interest in the content. Elements of the Business curriculum are found in many Third Level courses.

## **Economics:**

It explains how we get our incomes, how we use them, the supply of resources and the production and exchange of goods and services. It introduces students to the nature of economics and to basic economic concepts. Topics studied include; Economic systems and economic thought, Price and Output, Demand and Supply, Inflation, Economic Growth and Development, The Government in the Economy and Economic Policies, Problems and Conflicts.

**Is Economics for you?** If you have an interest in business and in particular current affairs and like to watch the news then Economics might be suitable for you. It is examined by a final Leaving Cert exam. It is useful for any student thinking of studying a Business Degree after school.

## **History:**

Senior cycle History focuses mainly on Modern European and Irish history. It gives students a greater understanding of the society in which they live and it will sharpen their research and writing skills. Some of the topics covered include, World War 1 and 2, The Cold War between 1945 and 1989, The pursuit of Sovereignty in Irish History, Northern Ireland during the Troubles. Students have to do a Research Study Report which is worth 20% of their final Leaving Cert mark. The report can be written on a person, movement or historical phenomenon they are interested in.

**Is History for you?** If you have an interest in particular in modern history then this course may suit you. Having a good standard of English would be important for research and essay writing purposes. There is a significant amount of material to remember and an ability to retain information would be essential. History is an excellent preparation for many jobs including, Journalism, Law, Broadcasting, Government, Teaching and many more.

## **Geography:**

Geography involves the study of the Earth, its Environment, its peoples and the relationship with the world in which they live. Some of the main topics studied include; Ordnance Survey and Aerial Photography, Physical Geography and European Geography. A Field Study is a compulsory part of the curriculum and is worth 20% of the final Leaving Cert Exam mark.

**Is Geography for you?** If you find the content of the Geography Curriculum interesting then it is a subject that students find manageable and can achieve excellent grades in with some hard work over 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year. Most students enjoy the scope of material covered in Geography and the insights it can provide into understanding the world around us. While not a requirement for any particular courses at Third Level it is useful for many career areas such as; Meteorology, Town Planning, Environmental Science and Teaching.

## **Engineering:**

Leaving Certificate engineering is the study of mechanical engineering. Students develop skills and initiative in the planning, development and realization of technological projects. Engineering is a practical subject that gives students hands-on experience working with tools and machinery, while also engaging in theoretical study. It is important to realise that there is a good mix of both practical work and theory. Engineering is assessed through a practical exam, a project completed throughout the year and written paper for the Leaving Cert.

**Is Engineering for you?** This subject follows up from Junior Cert metalwork. If you have an aptitude and interest for design and practical work it might be worth considering. Students who did not study the subject at Junior Cycle can still study it but will be at a disadvantage and have a lot of work to catch up on. Engineering is not an essential requirement for any course on the CAO system, but will provide a strong foundation for many careers including Electronic and Mechanical Engineering, Architecture and Industrial design.

## **Design and Communications Graphics:**

Design and Communication Graphics provides students with the opportunity for visualizing and comprehending information presented verbally or graphically. Problem solving and creative thinking skills are developed through the analysis and solution of both 2- and 3-dimensional graphics. Graphics and design are communicated using freehand sketching skills, traditional draughting equipment and CAD.

**Is Design and Communication Graphics for you?** If you are currently studying Technical Graphics and are doing well and enjoy the subject then you may find it an interesting subject for Senior Cycle. Students are assessed through a written exam paper worth 60% and a project worth 40%. It is useful for the study of Architecture but not essential.

## **Construction Studies:**

Construction Studies introduces students to the knowledge and skills associated with construction technology and construction materials and practices. This is achieved through theoretical study and integrated practical projects which provide a basis for the thorough exploration of materials and processes.

**Is Construction Studies for you?** If you have an interest in the world of construction and have good practical skills then Construction Studies will suit you. Students do not have to have taken the subject at Junior Cycle to be considered for the class but they may be at a disadvantage and they would want to have an aptitude for it. Construction Studies is assessed by three methods for the final Leaving Cert grade; a project of their choosing is completed in 6<sup>th</sup> year, a skills test and there is a written exam during Leaving Cert.

## **Art:**

Leaving Cert Art combines both practical Art and Art history. The examination percentage breakdown is approximately 37% Art History and approx 63% Practical work. The practical exams are in Imaginative Composition or Still Life, Craftwork, and Life Sketching.

**Is Art for you?** It is an intensive course so an interest and an aptitude for Art would be very important.

A Portfolio is required for entry into the Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art in CIT, the Visual Communications course in CIT and the Applied Art (Ceramics) course also in CIT. A portfolio is also needed for entry to courses in The National College of Art and Design. It is useful for careers in Advertising, Photography and for students who are interested in Architecture and Interior Design.

## **LCVP Link Modules:**

The programme combines the virtues of academic study with a new and dynamic focus on self-directed learning, enterprise, work and the community. Young people taking the LCVP have a unique opportunity to develop their interpersonal, vocational and technological skills. LCVP students follow the same subject syllabi and are assessed in the same way as their peers in the Leaving Certificate. For the Link Modules they are assessed by Written Examination (40%) and by Portfolio of Coursework (60%).

**Is LCVP for me?** You must have picked certain subjects to be considered eligible for LCVP (see additional info sheet). Students who study LCVP will have skills and aptitudes which will enable them to be more effective learners in the further education they receive at third level. Students who take the link modules are considered to be more ready for the world of work. The practical nature of the programme would be very beneficial to anyone interested in starting their own business or taking an active role in an established business.

# **\*\*\*LCVP Additional Information\*\*\***

## **Programme Requirements**

- At least **five** Leaving Certificate subjects, one of which must be Irish **plus** the Link Modules
- Two of the above subjects must be selected from one of the designated Vocational Subject Groupings
- Link Modules: Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education ( in addition to Five subjects)
- A recognised course in a Modern European Language other than Irish or English:

## **What is a recognised Modern European language course for LCVP students?**

The school has the discretion in this case – there are various options open to students.

They may take a language at Junior Certificate level or they can follow one of the FETAC language modules or the language teacher can devise a school programme in the language.

**Students must take the language class for a minimum of one class period per week or equivalent over the two years of the programme within school time. It is not assessed externally and the school can decide how to assess the course for modern languages.**

If a student is exempt from Irish for the Leaving Certificate they must still comply with the requirement to present a minimum of five subjects in the Leaving Certificate.

## **Vocational Subject Groupings (VSGs)**

**Two subjects** are selected from one of the Vocational Subject Groupings. These subjects provide students with a focus for developing vocational skills and exploring their career options. The Specialist Groupings consist of subjects which complement one another naturally. The Services Groupings comprise subjects which complement one another in a commercial context.

<b>Specialist Groupings</b>
1. Construction Studies; Engineering; Design and Communication Graphics; Technology - <b>Any Two</b>
2. Physics <b>and</b> Construction Studies <b>or</b> Engineering <b>or</b> Technology <b>or</b> Design & Communication Graphics
3. Agricultural Science <b>and</b> Construction Studies <b>or</b> Engineering <b>or</b> Technology <b>or</b> Design & Communication Graphics
4. Agricultural Science <b>and</b> Chemistry <b>or</b> Physics <b>or</b> Physics/Chemistry
5. Home Economics; Agricultural Science; Biology - <b>Any Two</b>
6. Home Economics <b>and</b> Art - Design Option <b>or</b> Craft Option
7. Accounting; Business; Economics - <b>Any two</b>
8. Physics <b>and</b> Chemistry
9. Biology <b>and</b> Chemistry <b>or</b> Physics <b>or</b> Physics/Chemistry
10. Biology <b>and</b> Agricultural Science
11. Art - Design Option or Craft Option <b>and</b> Design & Communication Graphics
<b>Services Groupings</b>
12. Engineering <b>or</b> Technology <b>or</b> Construction Studies <b>or</b> Design & Communication Graphics <b>and</b> Accounting <b>or</b> Business <b>or</b> Economics
13. Home Economics <b>and</b> Accounting <b>or</b> Business <b>or</b> Economics
14. Agricultural Science <b>and</b> Accounting <b>or</b> Business <b>or</b> Economics
15. Art Design or Craftwork Option <b>and</b> Accounting <b>or</b> Business <b>or</b> Economics
16. Music <b>and</b> Accounting <b>or</b> Business <b>or</b> Economics

## The Link Modules

Students taking the Leaving Certificate Examination will follow two Link Modules over the course of the two years.

### Link Module I – Preparation for the World of Work

Students will research and investigate local employment opportunities, develop job seeking skills such as letter writing, CV presentation, interview techniques; gain valuable practical experience of the world of work; interview and work shadow a person in a career area that interests them.

### Link Module II – Enterprise Education

Students will be involved in organising visits to local business and community enterprises; meet and interview enterprising people on site and in the classroom; plan and undertake interesting activities that will build self-confidence, creativity, initiative and develop teamwork, communication and computer skills.

### Assessment of the Link Modules

LCVP students follow the same subject syllabi and are assessed in the same way as their peers in the Leaving Certificate. For the Link Modules they are assessed by Written Examination (40%) and by Portfolio of Coursework (60%).

The Portfolio of coursework must be submitted on the first Wednesday in March. The written examination takes place the first Wednesday in May of the Leaving Certificate Year. The examination is of two and a half hours duration and consists of three sections which are outline below.

### The structure of the Written Examination is as follows:

**Section A** Audio Visual Presentation

**Section B** Case Study (received in advance by students)

**Section C** General Questions (4 out of 6)

Students assemble the portfolio over the two years of the programme and it is assessed at the end of the final year of the Leaving Certificate. The Portfolio and Written Examination are externally assessed by the Department of Education & Skills.

LINK MODULES - PORTFOLIO OF COURSEWORK	
CORE ITEMS	
Curriculum Vitae	
Career Investigation	
Enterprise/Action Plan	
Summary Report	
OPTIONAL ITEMS (any two)	
Diary of Work Experience	
Enterprise Report	
Recorded Interview/Presentation	
Report on My Own Place	

### Certification

LCVP students receive the same certificate as other Leaving Certificate students but their Certificate includes an additional statement of the results of the Link Modules.

The Link Modules are recognised for points purposes by the Institutes of Technology and the Universities. The points are allocated as follows:

Grade	
Distinction	66 points
Merit	46 points
Pass	28 points

# **\*\*\*Extracurricular Subjects\*\*\***

## **Agricultural Science**

Agricultural Science is offered as an additional subject, completed over a two year period outside of regular timetabled classes. There will be a financial cost to any student who wishes to do Agricultural Science.

Agricultural Science is the study of the scientific principles and practices of agriculture. Course content includes practical and theoretical study of farm crops, soil, livestock and mapping.

**Is Agricultural Science for me?** This is a very intensive course and students must have a very good interest in Science. Ag Science compliments the Leaving Cert Biology and Geography Courses.

It is the responsibility of the student to establish links with a farm that they will visit as part of the mandatory coursework. Practical Work and Projects form an important part of the course and account for 25% of the final marks in the Leaving Certificate, with the remaining 75% assessed through a written examination. While Ag Science is not a necessary requirement for any course on the CAO system, it would be useful for students considering a course and/or career in the Agriculture, Agribusiness, Dairy and Food Sciences, Horticulture and Forestry industries.

## **Applied Maths**

Applied Maths may be offered as an additional subject, completed over a two year period outside of regular timetabled classes. There will be a financial cost to any student who wishes to do Applied Maths.

Applied Maths is the study of practical applications of maths to the real world and physical problems. There is overlap between parts of the Leaving Cert Physics and Applied maths courses. The course essentially covers the mathematics behind the behaviour of objects when placed in various situations, such as being thrown as projectiles, bounced off walls or other objects, immersed in fluids, or swung around on a rope

**Is Applied Maths for you?** Students need to have a very high level of ability in maths and an aptitude for problem solving. If you are considering studying any kind of engineering in college, Applied Maths is extremely useful as all engineering students have to study Applied Maths in first year in college and you will have a head start if you have the Leaving Cert course done. Although not a specific requirement for any CAO course, this subject comes highly recommended for students considering a course and/or career in any area of Engineering, Science or Information Technology. Students are assessed through a written examination paper.

## Points Calculator

<b>Percentages</b>	<b>Leaving Certificate Grade</b>	<b>Higher Level Points</b>	<b>Ordinary Level Points</b>
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	0	0

**SIX** best subjects in one sitting of the Leaving Certificate to calculate points total.

**Bonus Points for Higher Level:** 25 bonus points will be added to the points score for students who achieve grade H6 or above in Maths.