

Subject Choice Senior Cycle March 20th, 2024.



St Louis Secondary School
Guidance Department



St Louis Team

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Agenda

- Transition from Junior to Senior cycle
- Considerations for Subject Choice
- Third Language (French/Spanish)
- Science and STEM
- Going to college
- The Points System



A chance to reflect on what's
important.

**WHAT A GOOD
DAY TO BE
PROUD
OF THE
PROGRESS
YOU'VE MADE**

A rapidly evolving world of work

The world of work is continuously changing. Technology, the flow of information, our growing screen usage and a desire to do the things we've always done in new, improved ways are driving this change. The following roles didn't exist ten years ago:

Social Media Manager, App Developer, Uber Driver, Driverless car engineer, Podcast producer, TikTok Creator, Drone Operator, CGI Illustrator and UX Designer to mention but a few.



Managing change in the world of work

These fields are dynamic, and new opportunities will arise. We're encouraging students to stay curious, adapt to change, and pursue subjects that align with their interests and strengths as this will be the route for best returns.



Transferable skills

Digital Literacy: Proficiency in using technology and understanding data.

Critical Thinking: The ability to analyze information, solve problems, and make informed decisions.

Communication Skills: Effective verbal and written communication.

Adaptability: Being open to learning and adjusting to new situations.

Collaboration: Working well in teams and across disciplines.

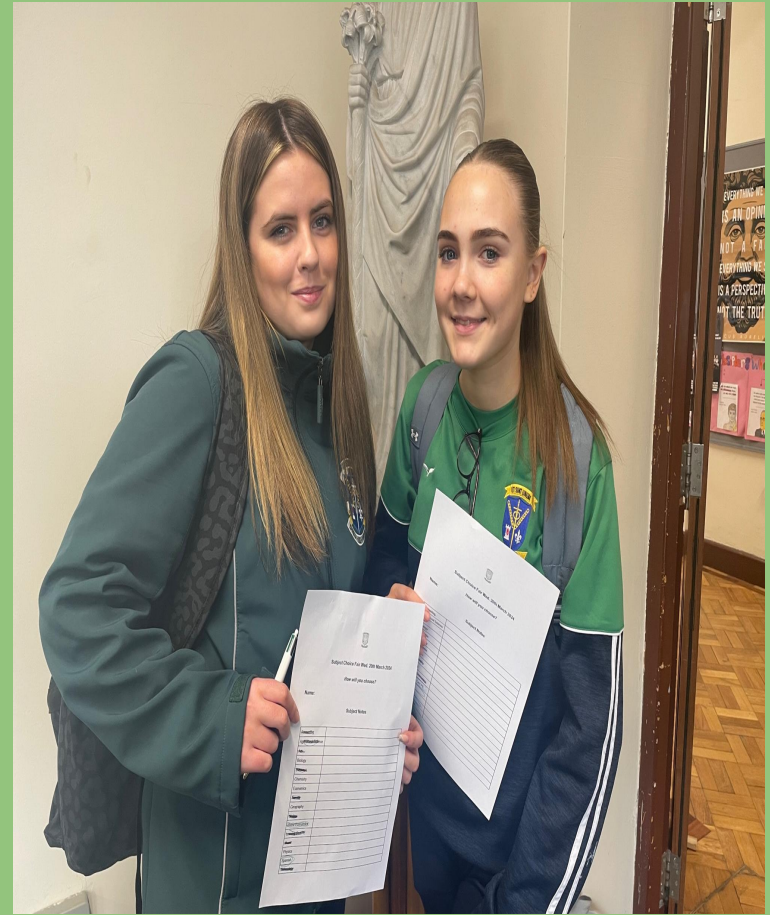
Pathways for some of our Class of 2023

Biotechnology	SETU
Analytical Chemistry	Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin)
Construction Management	DKIT
International Business with Spanish	Dublin City University- (DCU)
Music Production	Institute of Art and Design (IADT)
Politics and Criminology	University of Ulster (UU)
Criminology and Psychology	O'Fiaich College (PLC)
Paramedic and Emergency Care	Drogheda Institute of Education (DIFE)
Computer Science	University of Galway (NUI Galway)
Public Health + Nutrition	ATU Galway (ATU)
Medicine	Poland (Medical Poland)
Applied Languages & Translation	Dublin City University (DCU)

A photograph of three female students sitting behind a wooden desk in a classroom. They are all wearing dark green school sweaters over white collared shirts. The student on the left has her arms crossed. The student in the middle wears glasses and has her hands clasped. The student on the right is smiling. On the desk in front of them are several items: an open textbook showing a page with photos and text; a tablet computer displaying the French flag; a small laptop also displaying the French flag; and a worksheet titled "French" with a decorative border of colorful triangles. In the foreground, partially obscuring the bottom of the frame, is a blue poster with the headline "If I put a fade on it, it might work..." followed by the word "LANGUAGES" in large letters. Below this, there are sections titled "Why do I study Languages?", "Where can I study Languages?", and "What are the benefits of studying languages?" with bullet points and icons. A shelf with books is visible in the background.



Lab Sciences and Active Learning



Imparting of wisdom from seniors



Tried and true and embracing the new...



Moving Forward

- Junior Cycle to Senior Cycle
- Subject Choice in Third Year/ TY has consequences for Leaving Cert & Beyond.
- Examinable Subjects are reduced to 7 for Leaving Certificate.

Subject Choice

- Very important as it can have **far reaching** implications for the future, choosing subjects you **enjoy** and have **interest** in is the **key to a successful L.C.**
- Needs careful **planning, research** and **consideration**
- Should be a collaborative experience involving discussion with **parents/guardians, guidance counsellor, older sisters/brothers, senior students** importantly, your **subject teachers**.
- Leaving Cert. Textbooks and websites showing exam papers are valuable resources

Considerations

- Subjects I *need*.
- Subjects I am *good at* and can achieve high points in.
- Those I *like best /find interesting*.
- Avoid subjects I find difficult and in which I may be borderline.
- Be realistic – *play to strengths*.
- Follow *advice* of *Teacher*.



Choose subjects based on:

- Personal interest and enthusiasm
- Aptitude for particular subjects
- Possibility of high attainment
- Relevance to possible career
- Entry requirement for desired Third Level course



Be careful about basing decisions on the following-

- Teacher- You may not have the same teacher as for JC.
- Friend(s)-natural to want to be in same class but you need to choose based on your personal abilities.
- Preconceptions around certain subjects.(Being difficult/easy).
- Family expectation-honest discussions around your aspirations with family members.

What Choice of Subjects are available to me?

Compulsory Subjects (Core Subjects)	Non-Exam Subjects
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English• Maths• Irish	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guidance• Religion• P.E.

What Subject Range is Available to Me?

- Third Language : French, Spanish
- The Laboratory Sciences : Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Ag. Science (Applied Maths available externally)
- The Business Subjects : Accounting, Economics, Business
- The Arts/Humanities Subject Choice : History, Geography, Art, Music, Home Economics
- Technology and Physical Education

Why Study a Modern Language ?



French and Spanish



- Broaden job opportunities
- Social Reasons – Experience of other cultures, food, customs, literature and travel
- Excellent discipline-attractive to employers (particularly in Business)
- NUI Entrance requirements.

Modern Language Requirement

- This requirement exists within colleges of the N.U.I. (The National University of Ireland)
- These include UCD, UCC, Galway University, Maynooth University, St. Angela's College Sligo and RCSI .



Exceptions to Modern Language requirement

- Courses in Agriculture, Science and Engineering @ UCD
- Courses in Science, Business and Engineering @ Maynooth University
- Courses in Science in Galway Uni. and UCC
- Nursing at any of the college
- Business @ Maynooth University
- International students can use their mother tongue
- Even though these exemptions exist, it's still important to keep on a language unless you're very convinced of your career path.

STEM Subjects

Science, Tech, Engineering, Maths.

- 44% of secondary students in Ireland believe that STEM is more suited to males than females.
- St. Louis has a consistent and varied uptake in **Sciences, Engineering, Medical** and **Paramedical** degree courses.
-

Many incentives to STEM careers

- Women in STEM earning on average 33% more than women in non STEM roles.
- Highest paid jobs of the future-Computer Science/Engineering
- Entry pay grade high /fast growing sector, evolving rapidly/ minimal likelihood of jobs being eliminated by automation
- STEM encourages problem solving and creativity: highly transferable skills-genuine opportunity to change the world for the better.

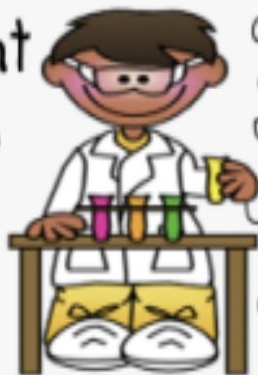
Considerations-

Possible Deterrents

- Media portrayal-majority of STEM characters in film/society are male. Although improving, stereotype prevails.
- Widespread cognitive bias that Maths is associated with males and Arts, females. Most not even aware they hold this belief.
- These stereotypes can be harmful and restrict choices and personal and professional development.
- What about Maths? Comfort level needed but not necessarily at HL.

What is a Scientist?

"A scientist is a person who asks questions and tries different ways to answer them."



An Engineer is someone who...

observes
and
wonders

shares
their
curiosity

uses tools
to solve
problems

constructs
inventions

Asks
questions

Explores
the world
around
them

Discovers
and creates
new things



An Engineer is someone like you!



- Longstanding tradition of STEM- Pioneered Leaving Cert Technology, availability of all Lab Sciences plus Ag. Science
- Visiting Speakers -Marie Kennedy ARUP/STEM Women in Engineering Event DKIT
- Robotics Workshops DKIT / Coding Programme DKIT in TY
- Past Pupil- Dr Niamh Shaw, Scientist, Engineer STEAM Artist and Astronaut in training
- STEM Passport Katriona O' Sullivan at Maynooth University

STEM at St. Louis.



**Maynooth
University**

National University
of Ireland Maynooth



Women in STEM
SUMMIT 2023



Dr. Katriona O'Sullivan
Digital Skills Lecturer,
Maynooth University

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
"Girls like me don't do them things"

15th March | Croke Park
www.womeninstem.ie

Science Essential for the following Career Areas :

- ❖ Science
- ❖ Engineering
- ❖ Medicine
- ❖ Dentistry
- ❖ Veterinary
- ❖ Pharmacy
- ❖ Physiotherapy
- ❖ Radiography
- ❖ Human Nutrition
- ❖ Architecture
- ❖ Occupational Therapy
- ❖ Speech Therapy
- ❖ Sports Science
- ❖ Med Lab Science
- ❖ Dietetics
- ❖ Optometry
- ❖ Nursing



Science Pointers

- If considering Nursing, Science is a must, Biology is advisable.
- Some Science courses require 2 Science subjects.
- Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry in UCC require H3 in Chemistry AND a H3 in Physics OR Biology



Third Level Study

- Over 1817 full-time courses
- 9 Universities in R.O.I. and 2 in Northern Ireland(UU and QUB)
- New Technological Universities ATU, MTU, SETU, TU Dublin,TUS .<https://youtu.be/TK2udev1W9I>
- Several others, including private colleges
- Currently no Third Level fees in R.O.I.



Studying Abroad

- 2024/25 fees will be approx £9300 per year in England
- N.I. Fees stable at £4,700 this year
- Scotland, usually a popular, affordable option, is now the same financial outlay as England.
- Wales





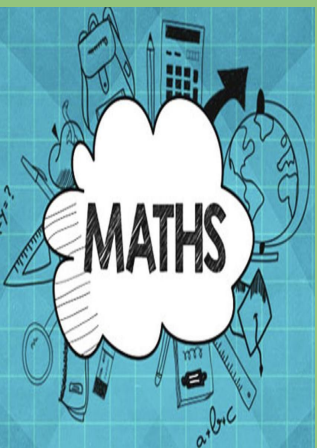
Going to College

Minimum Entry Requirements

The **minimum** requirements/matriculation requirements are exactly that-namely the minimum you are expected to have before you can be considered for entry to college.

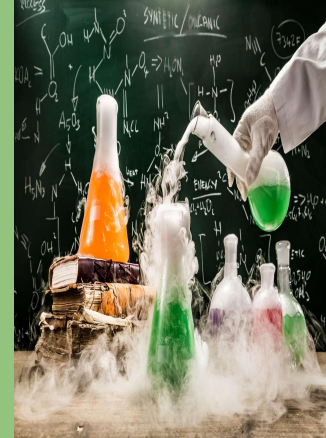
- Vary from –Technological Universities-5 passes at OL(including English and Maths).
- Some Universities - 6 subjects (at least 2 at HL)including English, Irish and in some cases,as explained above,a Modern Language.
- Trinity College Dublin-at least two/usually three subjects at HL.





Going to College

Specific Course Requirements



- These are particular subjects or a combination of subjects you must have to secure a place on a particular course.
- E.g. Primary School Teaching H4 Gaeilge
- E.g. Some Computing, Financial, Economics and Engineering courses require a H4 in Maths

Is  liom
Gaeilge

E.g. H2/3 in English required for some Journalism courses.



Where to check requirements-

These can be found in :

1. College Prospectus
2. College Website
3. Qualifax / Careers Portal/CAO Website

***Each student is responsible for their research of necessary requirements ***

Qualifax

Minimum Subject Search Tool

- This search engine helps to identify subjects needed for courses at Third Level.
- [Subject Requirement Tool](#)



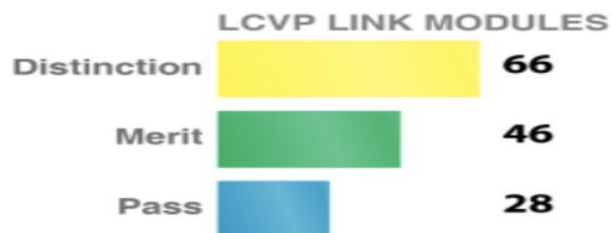
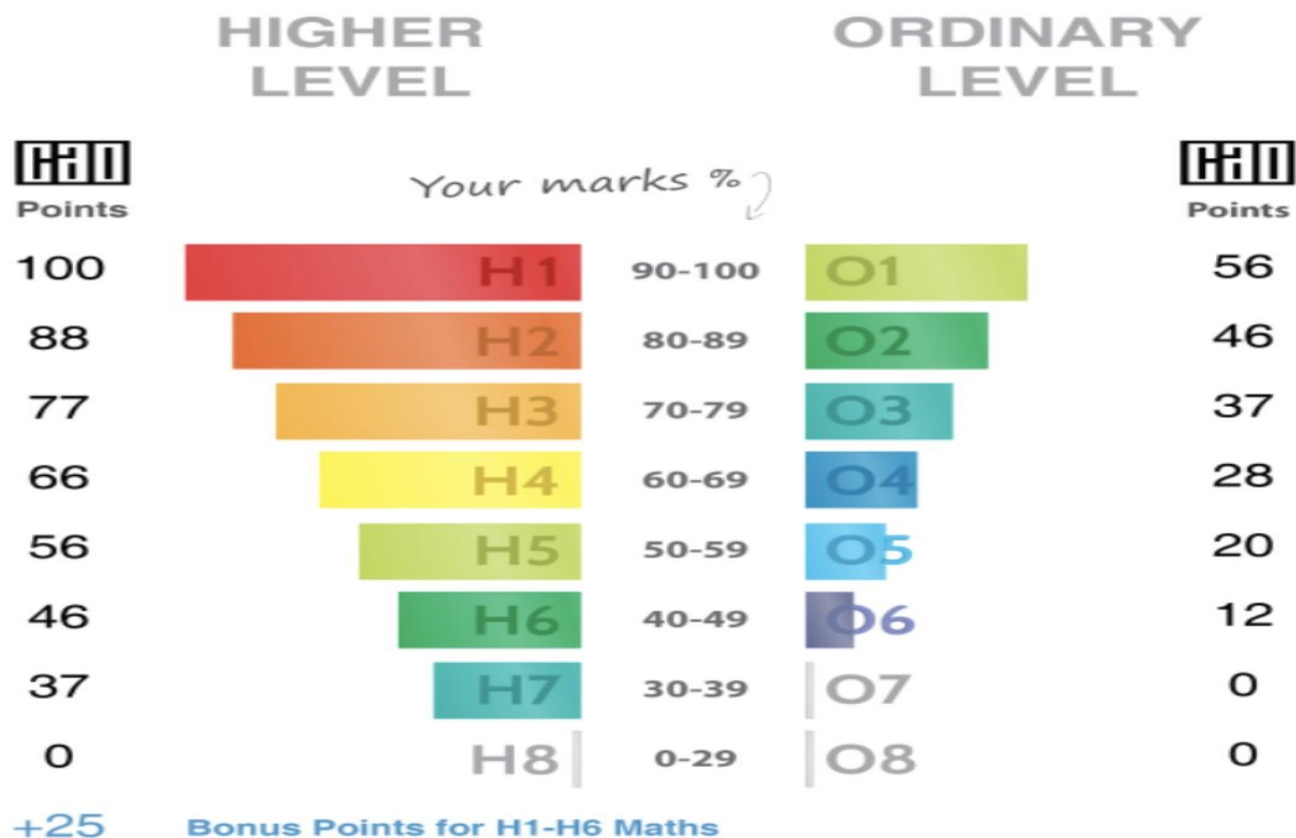
The Points System

- Those who meet the minimum entry and specific subject requirements for each course are allocated places on the basis of points gained from their SIX best subjects in LC.
- The maximum number of point one can earn in LC is 600 (625 with HL Maths-25pt for grade H6 and above)

Higher Level Grades	Higher Level Points	% Bands	Ordinary Level Grades	Ordinary Level Points
H1	100	90-100%	O1	56
H2	88	80-89%	O2	46
H3	77	70-79%	O3	37
H4	66	60-69%	O4	28
H5	56	50-59%	O5	20
H6	46	40-49%	O6	12
H7	37	30-39%	O7	0
H8	0	0-29%	O8	0

CAO POINTS GUIDE

grading system from 2017



Checklist

It is crucial to take on board the following three considerations when applying for courses

1. **Minimum** Entry Requirements
2. **Course** Subject Requirements
3. **Points** - Try to keep as many subjects at **Higher** level as possible-HL H1=100,OL O1=60

Final points to consider



- The subjects **required** for your next step.
- The subjects in which you are **successful** and can achieve.
- Your **interests** and passions are not random-they are your calling!
- Be strategic-don't burden yourself with a subject you don't enjoy to satisfy entry requirements; discuss this with Guidance Counsellor.
- ***PLAY TO YOUR STRENGTHS - OF WHICH YOU HAVE MANY!***

Playing the long game career wise...

Stay Adaptable: embrace change and continuously learn. The world of work evolves rapidly, so adaptability is key.

Focus on Transferable Skills: critical thinking, communication, and collaboration. These skills are valuable across many careers.

Explore Emerging Fields: industries like data science, cybersecurity, and renewable energy. Keep an eye on trends.

Subject Options - decisions

Lots of advice this week

Lots of conversations and decisions to consider over the next few weeks

CAT Test results

1st expression of interest via VSWARe Options

Also...

Digital Literacy Matters: Proficiency in technology is non-negotiable. Your digital skills are necessary to thrive in any job.

Choose **Passion** and **Purpose** which drive success. Make choices that align with your interests and strengths. This will yield satisfaction to sustain you in your career and equip you to pivot if wished...





- Consult Careers Portal for videos on Subject choice, detailed description and tracking of L.C. results over recent years. See our booklet for interactive links.
- Qualifax (Minimum Subject Search, as mentioned)
- Remember, most specific subject requirements are for ***Modern Language / Science***, so keeping these on will leave most doors open.





*May your choices reflect
your hopes and not your fears*

- Nelson Mandela-



How to use VSWARE app to choose options

www.stlouisdundalk.vsware.ie

How to use VSWARE app on a mobile phone

<https://vsware.wistia.com/medias/nr3tejf165>

It's time to make your selection.



Remember, we're here to help you

Add choices in **RANK ORDER** on Vsware

Deadline: Friday 22nd March

Resources

- ◆ www.cao.ie
- ◆ www.ucas.com
- ◆ www.qualifax.ie
- ◆ www.careersportal.ie
- ◆ www.smartfutures.ie
- ◆ www.eunicas.ie
- ◆ Follow our Guidance twitter
@StLouisdlkguid
daramее@stlouisdundalk.ie
ciaraomeara@stlouisdundalk.ie

School Tel- (042) 93 34474



Thank You & Goodnight

We look forward to working with you to access the correct pathway & subjects to maximise your overall success and wellbeing.