Ms. Carden

GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

JUNIOR CYCLE SUBJECT CHOICE

"EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD."
NELSON MANDELA

"THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE BEAUTY OF THEIR DREAMS."
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

St. Clare's Comprehensive
Manorhamilton

Acknowledgement:
Thank you to all of the teachers who contributed to the booklet.

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COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

English:

Develops students' oral language, reading and writing skills through engagement with a variety of literary and non-literary texts. Assessment includes Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs), an Assessment Task and a final 2 hour written examination.



Gaeilge:

Develops students' listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, with an emphasis on communicating effectively in Irish. Assessment includes Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs), an Assessment Task and a final 2 hour written examination.



Mathematics:

Focuses on developing mathematical knowledge, problem-solving, reasoning and practical application across key areas such as number, algebra, geometry, statistics and probability. Assessment includes Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs), an Assessment Task and a final 2 hour written examination.



USEFUL WEBSITES



www.ncca.ie
www.curriculumonline.ie/repository/junior-cycle-subjects/
www.curriculumonline.ie
www.qualifax.ie(Students/SubjectChoice) www.careersportal.ie
https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/publications/information-leaflets-on-junior-cycle-subject-options/
www.examinations.ie/exammaterialarchive/ (View exam papers)
www.qualifax.ie/subject-requirements

HOW TO CHOOSE SUBJECTS

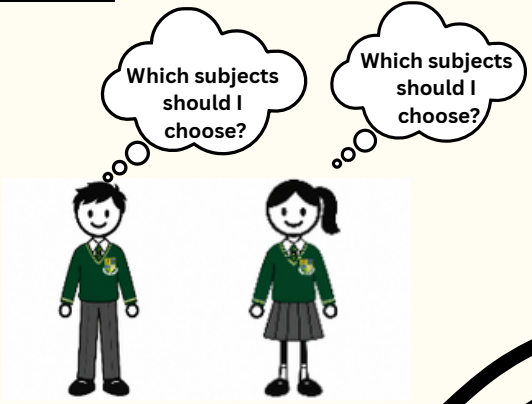
- Interests: Choose subjects you like.
- Aptitude: Choose subjects you are good at.
- Long-term goals: Think carefully about your future career path and the steps you can take to achieve your career ambitions.
- Finally - Keep your options open!











SPANISH/ESPAÑOL
MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE



hola

SUMMARY

Students are introduced to the culture and language of the Hispanic world. Students will learn to understand authentic texts, practicing their listening, comprehension skills and developing their written expression in Spanish.
Students will learn how to talk about themselves, their family, school, home, pastimes, holidays and more. There is also a focus on practical language to equip them to function in a Spanish speaking context. Grammar is an integral part of this class. Students learn how to use verbs in present/past/future tenses.

ASSESSMENT

Written Paper 65%
Listening Paper 35%
Assessment Task 10%
CBA 1 - Oral Communication (Short Presentation)
CBA 2 - Student Language Portfolio (Folder of Work)

SUITABLE FOR STUDENTS WHO LIKE ...

- Languages/theory/communication and culture.

- You can choose from 11 languages for Senior Cycle.
- Some college courses require a modern foreign language for admission.



FRENCH/FRANÇAIS

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE



SUMMARY

❖ 5th most spoken language in the world
❖ Listening, speaking, reading and writing skills are assessed by teachers
❖ Curriculum offers cultural studies, vocabulary building, pronunciation and a well rounded understanding of the language
❖ Interactive methodologies used in classroom along with target language
❖ Goal: help students become proficient in French and appreciate Francophone cultures

3 strands:
1. Communicative competence
2. Language awareness
3. Socio-cultural knowledge and intercultural awareness.

Progression available for students who would like to sit DELF Exam with their teacher.
(Diploma of French Language Studies) Available levels A1 – C2.

ASSESSMENT

Continuous assessment during 1st year
End of year assessment in 1st Year (verbs, vocabulary , grammar , oral work etc will be assessed)
CBA in 2nd Year to assess Oral Communication - students will be guided on how to speak about themselves (moi-meme et ma famille).
Students can reenact a scene in a French restaurant, meeting some friends or asking for directions. Endless possibilities to progress in the language.
3rd Year - preparation for Junior Cycle Exam

SUITABLE FOR STUDENTS WHO LIKE ...

- Languages/theory/communication and culture.
- You can choose from 11 languages for Senior Cycle.

Some college courses require a modern foreign language for admission.





MUSIC



SUMMARY

Three components - Performing, Listening and Composing

1. Performing - learning how to perform (sing/play) as a part of group, within the class setting. Building on skills learned outside of school.
2. Listening - learning to listen and appreciate different styles of music, building a vocabulary to describe and analyse music and different musical styles
3. Composing - learning how to write music on the lines and spaces, build chords, compose a short melody/jingle.

It is not necessary for students to learn an instrument outside of school, but it is an advantage if they do.

30% of the marks at JC are for the practical/performing exam. 50% of the marks at LC are for the practical/performing exam.

No student will be made to perform on their own, unless they feel comfortable doing so.

ASSESSMENT

30% Practical Exam assessed by SEC - lots of options for solo or group performing
70% Written Paper in June, including listening and composing skills.

CBA1 in second year - Composition Portfolio, including two compositions created in class time.

CBA2 in third year - create a programme note for the pieces the students plays in their practical exam (information about piece, composer, features etc.

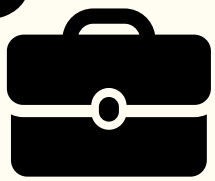
SUITABLE FOR STUDENTS WHO LIKE ...

Playing music, listening to different types of music, something different!





BUSINESS



SUMMARY

Junior Cycle Business has 3 interconnected strands

1. Personal Finance: This strand focuses on students developing a set of skills, knowledge and values that allows them to make informed decisions to effectively and responsibly manage their financial resources.
2. Enterprise: This strand encourages students to identify opportunities and turn them into practical and targeted activities within business and wider society through the development and application of their understanding, skills and values.

It develops students' basic understanding of the financial, marketing and operational functions of an organisation,

1. Our Economy: This strand enables students to understand the dynamic relationship between the local, national and international economic situation.

It develops students' ability to identify/understand economic concepts as they relate to personal finance, enterprise & the Irish economy.

ASSESSMENT

Classroom Based Assessment 1 2nd Year: (4 weeks) It is completed in small groups and the teacher assigns the area of investigation.

Classroom Based Assessment 2 - Third Year. (3 weeks) Students research a business related topic, prepare a presentation on the topic and present a 3 minute presentation to the class.

Assessment Task - Following the second CBA students complete a reflective assessment task.

The Assessment Task is assessed by the State Exams commission - 10% of overall marks in the subject.

Final Exam in Business Studies: June in Third Year June.

It is a Common Level paper and is two hours in duration.

SUITABLE FOR STUDENTS WHO...

Business is a subject that is related to everyday life scenarios, students can apply what they see in real life to their study of Business as a subject.

Studying Business Studies at Junior Cycle provides a foundation for studying Leaving Certificate Business and Accounting.

Countless courses at Third level have a business module as part of the course.

VISUAL ART



SUMMARY

The specification for Junior Cycle Visual Art has 3 interconnected strands; namely Art, Craft and Design
In Year 1, students will learn various drawing techniques, exploring the Art Elements and Design Principles such as tone, colour and pattern through new media like pastels, paint, watercolour and stenciling. Students will also get a chance to experiment with crafts such as 3D mask making using Plaster-of-Paris and finally learning about pottery techniques through clay sculpture.

In Year 2, there is a focus on observational and analytical drawing based on primary sources. New crafts are introduced in the form of lino printing and etching. Finally students will learn about Graphic design including packing design for CBA1 at the end of Year 2.

ASSESSMENT

Visual Art students will spend their third year carrying out a project. This project is to be carried out in two phases during the year.

- Phase 1 Classroom-Based Assessment 2 *'Communicate and Reflect'* which is carried

out in their Visual Art Sketchpad. The work for this phase is not assessed by the State
Examinations Commission. Students work on CBA2 in Term 1 of Year3. This allows the time to research; to experiment; to develop the ideas, skills and techniques

- Phase 2 Final Assessment – the State Examinations Commission will issue students with a workbook to help them complete the second phase of their project.

The Brief for CBA 2 and Final Assessment with the choice of three themes is published annually by the SEC in September of Year 3.
There is no written exam in June of Year 3 for Visual Art. The project for the final assessment comprises the entirety of the final grade awarded. For the final assessment, candidates must submit a Visual Art Workbook to the SEC, worth 100 marks and one finished piece, which can be 2D or 3D and is also worth 100 marks.

SUITABLE FOR STUDENTS WHO...

Are creative, open-minded, motivated, hands on and curious.

HOME ECONOMICS



SUMMARY

Home Economics specification is broken into three strands:



1) Food, health and culinary skills
2) Responsible family living
3) Textiles and craft

Full specification:



https://curriculumonline.ie/getmedia/6d9ca864-75a5-4f99-80bc-7a9c416e6f05/JCSpec_HomeEc.pdf

ASSESSMENT

Classroom Based Assessment 1: Creative Textiles
Students make a textile item for an individual or the home
OR
Students recycle or upcycle a textile item for an individual or the home.
Classroom Based Assessment 2: Food Literacy Skills Brief
Students carry out research on a brief set by the State Examinations Commission. This will form the basis for their practical cookery exam.
The practical cookery exam makes up 50% of their final grade for their Junior Cycle exam in the subject. They are completed after Christmas in third year.
The final 50% is awarded through a written paper at the end of third year.

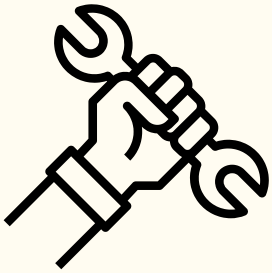
SUITABLE FOR STUDENTS WHO ..

Home Economics is a fantastic subject for all as it gives students the skills and knowledge to live independently as an adult. Home Economics is ideal for students who are creative and those who prefer practical assessment methods. It would also suit anyone with an interest in food or diet.

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ENGINEERING

SUMMARY



Engineering is a common level subject. All students are assessed at a common level. The course is 200 hours of class contact over three years. Lessons are a hybrid of practical activities with note taking and sketching. This allows students to develop all of the key skills for Junior Cycle such as literacy, numeracy and working with others.

ASSESSMENT

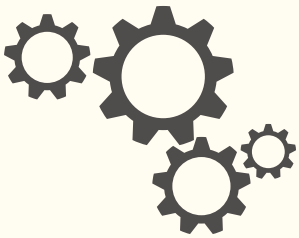
70% - Project
The project is completed in third year. It starts mid October and is completed by late April. The link below is 2024 JC project.

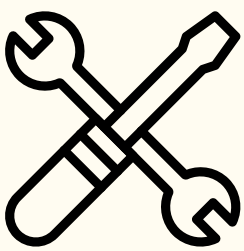
https://www.examinations.ie/misc-doc/EN-EX-54902628.pdf

30% - Written Examination
The written examination is 90mins and completed during the State Exams at the end of third year.

SUITABLE FOR STUDENTS WHO ..

Suitable for all students especially those who are interested in how things work or like solving practical problems.











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GRAPHICS

SUMMARY



The subject Graphics is the graphical representation of Maths. It is measured drawing for the most part, but also includes elements of freehand sketching and Computer Aided Design (C.A.D.). It improves a students' hand - eye coordination and also helps reinforce some of the concepts in Maths.

ASSESSMENT

CBA 1 - April/May of 2nd Year
CBA 2 - September/October of 3rd Year
Terminal Examination in June of 3rd Year: 70%
Project in October/November of 3rd Year: 30%





SUITABLE FOR STUDENTS WHO ..

Suitable for all students who like thinking about problems (theory) and solving them by drawing them out on a sheet of paper or C.A.D. (Practical)



WOOD TECHNOLOGY

SUMMARY

Junior Cycle Wood Technology aims to develop the necessary conceptual understanding, disciplinary skills, and subject knowledge to investigate and solve real-life problems while progressing the development of a range of manipulation skills through processing wood and other materials

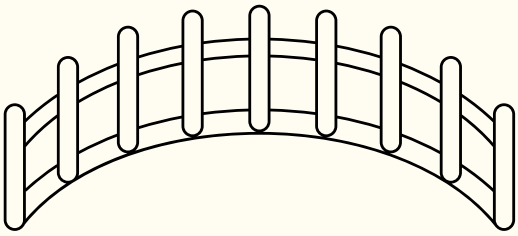
ASSESSMENT

A dual approach to assessment, involving classroom-based assessment across the three years and a final externally-assessed, state-certified examination.

There are two Classroom-Based Assessments in Wood Technology. They are assessed at a
common level. The Classroom-Based Assessments for Wood Technology are:
CBA 1: Wood science in our environment – undertaken in year 2 during a maximum of 3 weeks
CBA 2: Student self-analysis and evaluation – undertaken in year 3 during a maximum of 3 weeks

SUITABLE FOR STUDENTS WHO ..

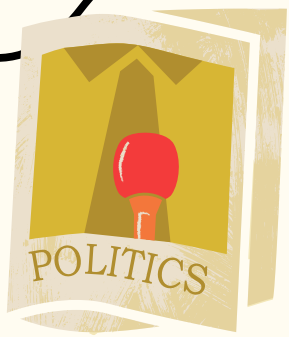
Students who like to problem-solve through creation, innovation, communication, collaboration and exploration, all of which are developed in an active learning environment where students can advance their ideas from conception to realisation.





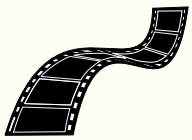


SHORT COURSES













Mandatory Short Courses: Civic Social Political Education (C.S.P.E.), Social Personal Health Education (S.P.H.E.) and Physical Education (P.E.)

Optional Short Courses: Students may choose TWO short courses from the optional short courses on offer. These two short courses would replace an optional subject. The Short Courses on offer are subject to change.

The 2026 - 2027 options were Coding and Digital Media Literacy

There are no State Examinations in the Short Course.
Assessment: Classroom Based Assessments

CODING *	Three interconnected strands. 1. Computer Science Introduction. 2. Let's Get Connected. 3. Coding at the Next Level. Assessment: CBA - typically in 3rd Year after February midterm. Develop a software project in teams of two/three. Research, design, implement and test the software. Present project to peers.
ARTISTIC PERFORMANCE *	Drama. CBA: 100% Students will put on a short performance in 3rd year in their school for a small group of people. The group performance should bring all the relevant skills together with evidence of improvement and commitment. The performance allows the students to communicate their new skills through drama.
C.S.P.E. MANDATORY	Three strands: 1. Rights & Responsibilities. 2. Global Citizenship. 3. Exploring Democracy. Assessment: CBA: Citizenship Action Record completed in 3rd year based on one of the citizenship actions. Written/Visual/Audio/Multimedia.
S.P.H.E. MANDATORY	Four strands: 1: Understanding myself and Others. 2: Making healthy choices. 3: Relationships and Sexuality. 4: My emotional wellbeing. Assessment: CBA in 2nd or 3rd year. Format: Oral or scrapbook.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION MANDATORY	PE is divided into four strands: 1 Physical activity for health and wellbeing. 2 Games. 3 Individual and team challenges. 4 Dance and gymnastics. Assessment: Assessment for certification will be school-based. Three assessment tasks: 33.3% each.
DIGITAL MEDIA LITERACY *	Four Strands: 1: My digital world. 2: Following my interests online. 3: Checking the facts. 4: Publishing myself. Classroom-Based Assessment: Final project The final project is a piece of work that can be presented/published in an appropriate digital format, and should be completed towards the end of the course. It can be based on any topic related to the course.

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FUTURE IMPLICATIONS OF SUBJECT CHOICE

Some subjects give you the opportunity for greater diversity in the Leaving Certificate.

- Business Studies in J.C. branches into different subjects in Senior Cycle: Business and Accounting.
- Science (compulsory at JC) divides into 4 subjects in Senior Cycle Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Agricultural Science.

Further Education and Training:

A modern foreign language (French/Spanish) is required for entry into some courses in the NUI Universities: Galway University, Maynooth University, University College Cork /Dublin and Trinity College Dublin.

Maynooth University: Third language required in Arts & Humanities, not required for entry into the following courses: Business, Law, Science & Engineering.

University of Galway: A third language is required for Arts, Commerce, Law, Medicine , Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Podiatry. It is not required for entry to Nursing or Engineering. Nor is it required for Pharmacy or the Science Courses except for Biotechnology.

University College Cork: A third language must be included among the other subjects for most degree programmes in Arts, Human Sciences, Law, Social Science, Commerce, Medicine and Health Sciences and some other degrees.

University College Dublin: A third language is required for many of their courses.

Trinity College Dublin: Degrees with languages require a 3rd language.

Other: An apprenticeship is a programme (2 - 4 years) combine education and training at an institution with practical learning and work experience at a company.

Further Education and Training: www.fetchcourses.ie (Some links to third level)

Defence Forces : An Garda Siochana - Irish & English required. Cadets, Army, Air Corps, Navy - Third language required.



FURTHER INFORMATION

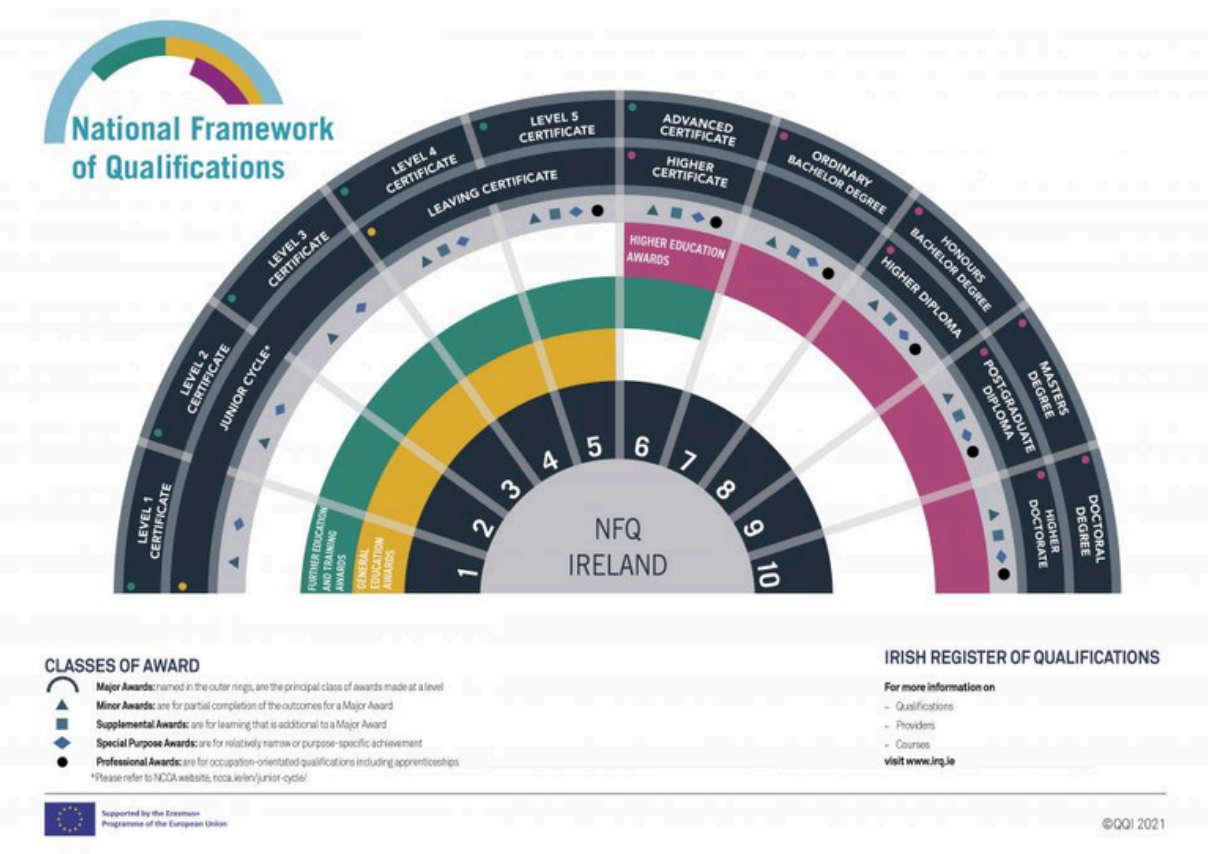
WWW.QUALIFAX.IE/SUBJECT-REQUIREMENTS

IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS WEBSITES FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION.

"THE ONLY WAY TO DO GREAT WORK IS TO LOVE WHAT YOU DO."

National Framework of Qualifications

A 10-level system used to describe qualifications in the Irish education and training system.



National Framework of Qualifications Click Link

Information was correct at the time this booklet was produced..
Disclaimer: Course requirements and information contained within is subject to change.