

Third Year Options St. Michael's, Navan

A Third Year student has a number of options to choose from for next year and she must choose now.

She can look for an **APPRENTICESHIP** at 16: Minimum entry requirements 3c + 2d in ordinary level subjects at Junior Cert.

She can apply for a training course with **F.A.S.** – Min age 16.

She can apply to do the **TRANSITION YEAR** here in St. Michael's. This is an extra year of intellectual and personal development between the Junior and Senior cycles.

She can apply to do the **LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED**. This is a specialised Leaving Cert. Programme combining General Education, Career Orientated Education (with specialisms in Agriculture/Horticulture, Hotel/Catering/Tourism, Craft & Design, Construction/Manufacturing, Engineering, Community Care, Office Skills, Retailing, Technology) and Career Preparation.

Apply to do the **LEAVING CERTIFICATE** here in St. Michael's. This Leaving Cert is not an automatic next step and should be considered very carefully. Standards in the Leaving Cert. Both at Ordinary and Higher levels are very different from the Junior Cert. Many students find the change quite difficult and care must be taken with the choice of subjects, the level studied at and the commitment necessary to complete the two year course successfully.

SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

If a student has a particular career or college course in mind she should make sure she understands the subject requirements of that career or course now. It is too late in sixth year deciding to be a national school teacher without having taken Higher Course Irish from 5th year, or wishing to apply to Maynooth without having three languages, or wishing to go to Dundalk I.T. without passing English and Maths at least at ordinary level. Colleges and courses have various requirements and research is needed in third year to make sure your desired options are available to you in sixth year.

This information can be got from the internet – students can log on to the careers’ website in the computer room (but only with permission from home) and access the websites of the different professional bodies and higher and further education colleges.

The following websites are useful:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| ScoilNet | www.scoilnet.ie |
| Qualifax | www.qualifax.ie |
| Careers’ World | www.careersworld.com |
| UCAS U.K College Applications | www.ucas.com |
| An Bord Altranais | www.nursingboard.ie |
| CAO | www.cao.ie |
| FAS | www.fas.ie |

Mr. O’ Toole Guidance Counsellor: www.careersireland.wordpress.com

Much of the information on college courses can be accessed through the qualifax website, but more detailed information is available on the colleges’ own website. It is important to know what the subject requirements will be in two years’ time rather than just the requirement at present in force.

Other resources: Books

Student Yearbook and Career Directory – Part 1 + 2

Applying to College 2009

Points for PARENTS

Biology

What sort of subject?

- New Biology course in September 2002
- 22 Mandatory experiments – ensures all students will have relevant experiential experience.
- Course is relevant to modern science courses.
- Ordinary level helpful for knowledge of health and environment.

What sort of student?

It is particularly suited for girls who may not want to follow a science career but who wish to have a science subject in the Leaving.

It is a continuation of what is studied in the Junior Cert, but in more detail. Ordinary level biology requires hard work – lots of learning / factual. For higher level a B in Junior Cert higher level science is necessary.

Career Links

In terms of careers, the subject is ideally suited for anybody contemplating Medicine, Veterinary, and Dentistry and nursing. It is also very suitable for Agriculture, Applied Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Botany (Plant Science), Ecology/Environmental Science, Genetics, Marine Science and aquaculture, Microbiology and Zoology (Animal Science).



Physics

What sort of subject?

A new course has been introduced 2002

The aim of the new syllabus is to give students an understanding of the fundamental principles of physics and their application to everyday life and technology.

It also provides a reasonable broad perspective of physics, thus, developing an understanding of the physical environment and of how human beings interact with it.

What sort of student?

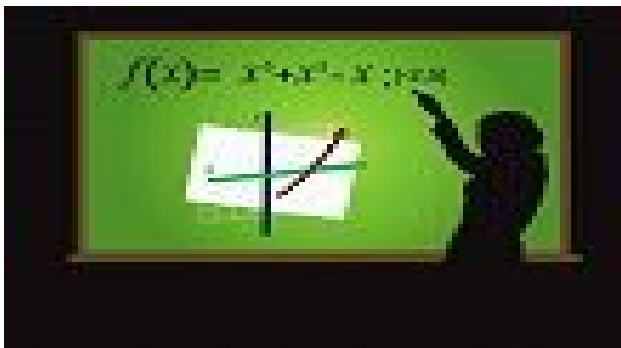
Physics assists in developing the ability to observe, to think logically and develop an understanding of scientific method. Most fifth year students would admit that Physics at L.C. Level is interesting, but a lot more difficult than Science at J.C. level.

D in higher level Maths in the junior cert and a C in Science course would be a good indication of aptitude for physics.

Career Links

In most engineering course, you will find a high physics content, while some paramedical careers will involve the study of it, e.g. Radiography, Physiotherapy etc. It is essential requirement (HB) for Theoretical Physics (TCD) and Electrical Engineering (UCC) – HC.

Anyone considering courses or careers in Electronics would be very much encouraged to do physics.



Chemistry

What sort of Subject?

Topics covered include organic chemistry, water analysis, industrial chemistry, bonding, gases, oxidation and reductions, fuels, environmental chemistry.

Emphasis is placed on the social and applied aspects of chemistry, so students understand how chemistry relates to everyday life.

The new syllabus (2002) has as its primary aim producing a scientifically literate population challenging the idea that chemistry is only for the elite.

What type of student?

Science in Junior Cert, is essential for Leaving Cert chemistry. A student of average ability, who is well motivated should be able to acquire a grade C in the Higher Level paper. Above average ability is needed to acquire a B or A.

Career Links

Chemistry is essential for a student wishing to study Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering, Natural Sciences, Pharmacy, Agricultural Science, Dairy Science, Food Science and all the para-medical sciences.

The study of Chemistry for its own sake should not be ignored. The student is introduced to the study of ideas and experimental work that have shaped the 20th Century. Some of the theoretical work represent the finest flowering of human achievement in any field.

A student of Chemistry, when qualified, can find work in the Irish Chemical industry, which is now well established in this country, especially in the field of fine chemicals. The industry is confident that there will be a steady demand for chemistry graduates.



Accountancy

An extension of Book-Keeping as covered under the New Junior Certificate, this course was totally revised in 1998 to update and improve the old Leaving Certificate Accounting Syllabus.

Accounting at first might appear an intimidating subject for some students. Many mistakenly assuming that a knowledge of higher level mathematics as an essential requirement for entry. Experience has shown that any student with a logical mind and an ability to see the entire scope of the Accounting system will have little difficulty with the subject. In actual fact many find it a very rewarding and relaxing subject to study as it is a subject where the student can easily measure the progress being made.

What accounting involves ?

The recording of Financial information

The presentation of this financial information

The interpretation and uses of this information

What do you Study ?

You learn how to prepare Business Final Accounts, Cash Flow Statements, Published Accounts and Accounts from Incomplete Records.

You learn Management Accounting. This involves business day to day planning and planning for the future using Costing and Budgets.

Accounts of non profit making organisations. You learn to analyse and comment on Financial records.

How you benefit by studying Accounting ?

You learn :

To collect information.

To record and analyse information. To think logically and clearly.

To understand the importance of financial information for good decision making, this can be for shareholders, creditors, employers, employees, customers, or members of a voluntary organisation.

About the relationship between accounting and other areas of business...

You have an advantage when you go onto further study. Accounting is on the

curriculum of many Third Level Courses, the most obvious being the Business Courses but also for Hotel Management, Hospital and School Administration, various Computer Courses, Auctioneering, Advertising, Law and Engineering to name but a few.

You develop an ability to link accounting with relevant computer applications.

Career Options

Take an Accountancy qualification.

Work in/as any of the following, Banking, Insurance, Management, Company Secretary, Receptionist, Accounting Technician, Hotel Management, Hospital and School Administration, Computer Industry, Auctioneering, Advertising, Law and Engineering.
Run your own Business

In Fact, it is hard to think of any career where some knowledge of Accounting would not be useful !!

What sort of student?

The subject would suit those who are interested in:

- 1. How companies, banks, building societies and other financial institutions are organised.**
- 2. Moving into any aspect of the business world, as a knowledge of accounting would be of great benefit.**

Career Links

As indicted above, Accounting is helpful for those interested in accountancy or those who would like to move into management or those interested in any aspect of industry or commerce.

The computer is steadily eliminating the purely mechanical and book-keeping role of accountants so more and more managers have to analyse, interpret and use the figures produced by the computer.

Accounting is compulsory in the first year of the Bachelor of Commerce degree. It is optional subsequently but it is very often the subject on which the quality of the degree is based. This applies particularly to those who have a career in accountancy in mind. Becoming a Certified Accountant is possible directly after degree while another three years study is required for Chartered Accountancy.

A background in Accounting will also prove very useful for those who intend starting their own business or joining the family business.

Banking – Institute of Banker Examinations reach no higher than Honours Accounting level. On completion of these examinations, the bank may decide to give the student three years paid leave to complete the B Comm., degree

Careers in the Money Market or on the Stock Exchange. Company Secretary.

What is Business

The subject is concerned with understanding the environment in which business operates. As a Business student you are encouraged to show enterprise, initiative and self-reliance, which you may apply in further education and in your personal, working and public life.

What do you study?

You study all aspects of the business world. You learn about. **People**
Consumers, Producers, Investors, Interest Groups, Employers, Industrial
Relations

Enterprise Entrepreneur, Management of Business, Financial Management, Human
Resource Management, Marketing, Household Management, Starting a
Business, Running your own Business.

Environment Types of Business, Community Development, Government and Business,
International Business, E.U, Role of Information Technology in Business.

How can you benefit by studying business?

-You can make informed business discussions. -You
understand the structure and management of business.

-You will be able to use established commercial principles and
knowledge. -You will understand & appreciate ethics in business.

-You practice your Communication, Literacy, Numeracy, and problem solving
skills. -You will be able to understand & discuss current affairs as they relate to
business. -You have a foundation for further studies.

Career Options

Any Business related career. The study of Finance and Management makes it a
very relevant subject any career choice.

Set up your own business

Economics

What sort of Subject?

You may not know it but economics is a subject with which you are already familiar. Each day the media keeps you in touch with a wide range of economic issues: unemployment & job creation; inflation; the EU; EMU and the EURO; Third World issues; taxation; interest rates; government economic policies and the performance of the economy.

Economics studies show scarce resources are best distributed to satisfy our infinite needs and wants.

What do you study?

The study of economics is divided into two sections:

1) *Microeconomics*

This is the study of individual markets i.e. buyers and sellers agree on a price. The price helps decide who gets the goods and services and what factors of production are employed.

2) *Macroeconomics*

This deals with matters affecting the wealth of the whole community called Gross National Product. You will study Banking, International Trade and Finance, the EU, the role of the government in the economy etc..

How you benefit by studying Economics?

- You will understand the economic environment in which you live.
- You will understand the media reports on economic issues and have a better grasp of current affairs.
- You learn to collect, analyse and interpret information. This allows you to think clearly and logically – a major asset when you start job hunting.
- You will be able to evaluate the complex information about markets e.g. the financial markets and what they have to offer you as a consumer.
- You will be able to participate more fully as a citizen of Ireland, the EU and the world.
- Should you proceed Third Level you know that you will have studied a subject, which is a module in many courses at Third Level.

Relevance to Third Level

Economics can be taken as a separate subject to degree level in Commerce/Business courses and Art/Humanities courses.

Most Information Technology courses include an economics module.

Many other non-business courses contain an economics module.

What sort of student?

Because of the increasingly high standard demanded at L.C. examinations, students with a capacity for sustained application to the subject will benefit, as will those with an interest in current developments.

Career Links

Economics is useful to students who may pursue careers in fields such as Banking, Insurance, Marketing, Management, and accountancy or as lead to qualifications such as MBA.

Geography

What sort of subject?

From September 2004 a new Geography syllabus was introduced. Geography is concerned with the study of people and their environment. A study of Geography will help students develop an understanding of their physical and human surroundings. It examines the changing interrelationships between the physical and human worlds. Through their study of Geography, students will

- a) develop geographical skills that will help them make informed judgments about issues at local, national and international levels.
- b) It will promote awareness of the spatial, structural and temporal patterns of environmental phenomena.
- c) It will promote the conservation and sustained management of the earth's resources.
- d) It will recognise and be sensitive to other people and their culture, here in Ireland and elsewhere.
- e) It will develop a variety of geographical skills which can be applied to the world of work and to many other aspects of life.

Course Content: The course is divided into units of study:

Compulsory : Core Unit 1 – Patterns and processes in the physical environment. Core Unit 2 – Regional Geography.
Core Unit 3 – Geographical investigation.

Plus ONE of the following two electives:

Elective 4 – Patterns and processes in economic activities.

Elective 5 – Patterns and processes in human environment.

Plus ONE of the following areas of study (FOR HIGHER LEVEL

ONLY) Option 6 – Global interdependence.

Option 7 – Geo-ecology. Option

8 – Culture and identity.

Option 9 – The atmosphere-ocean environment.

The student's competency in the application and use of geographical skills will be examined in the context of terminal written examination and the geographical investigation. A report on the completed geographical investigation will be submitted for assessment at the end of term one in Leaving Certificate year 2. No group projects will be accepted. This must be an individual study and must reflect the syllabus content. 20% of the overall mark will go towards this study and 80% of the overall mark will be the form of a written terminal exam.

What kind of Student?

The type of student suited to this subject would be basically interested in precise Geographical work. It does require a certain attention to detail and an ability to analyse and evaluate. Extensive literary ability is NOT required. The subject should be intrinsically interesting to most students. The course is designed to dovetail in with most other subjects including Biology and Economics.

It is difficult to get honours in Geography without consistent hard work. A 'B' at honours Junior Cert. Level is desirable to do honours at leaving cert. A high standard of English is required.

Career Links

Career links include surveying, architecture, mineral development, meteorology, agriculture, civil service work, particularly in certain aspects of the E.U., fishing, forestry, urban planning and teaching.



History

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it” George Santayana, “The life of Reason”

What sort of subject?

- (1) European History (1870 – 1966)
- (2) Irish History (1870 – 1966)

Students will be expected to deal with the above sections from the point of view of social economic and political history.

The revised history syllabus will be examined by means of a terminal written examination 80% of the marks and a report on a research study 20% of the marks. The terminal exam will include compulsory documents – based elements. The report on a research topic will be submitted in advance of the terminal written examination and will be assessed at the appropriate level. These arrangements will apply to both Ordinary and Higher levels. There will be separate written examinations at Ordinary and Higher levels.

Because the Honours and Pass course contain essentially the same subject matter, it is possible for Honours and Pass students to study the same topics simultaneously, thus providing an opportunity for discussion which is often impossible in other classroom situations where there is a Pass-Honours split. Naturally this benefits the weaker student.

Audio-visual aids, primary and secondary sources, when appropriate are used to supplement the text and reference books prescribed for the course. Most reference works are available in the College Library so actual expenditure on textbooks can be kept to very reasonable levels.

On average, the student will be expected to write one essay per week on the material she studies in class and at home.

The methods employed by the student involve a very wide “reading-around” the subject (reference works and sources as indicated at the beginning of each section) and the development of her analytical skills. Much of the emphasis is placed on the student’s ability to use the relevant material to come to her own understanding of the issues in question instead of simply being able to give an account of the events.

What sort of student?

Ideally, the student contemplating the study of History at L.C. will already have developed a keen interest in the subject and a willingness to invest time in her own reading and research. Students with a reasonably good standard of written English will invariably do well at L.C. History: the opposite is also true.

It is difficult to get the honour on the honours paper. In order to get honours a student should: like history – read texts and novels – watch TV programmes and films on her own initiative - be able to reflect under pressure.

The fundamental basis of success at L.C. level is a good grasp of the facts coupled with the ability, analyse and criticise. Hence the student who has a keen sense of the significance and consequences of major historical events as well as an ability to absorb and recall information is well suited to the study of History at L.C. level.

Career Links

Unfortunately, and wrongly, History is often regarded as a “dead-end” subject, i.e. the general view is that the study of History at L.C. is only useful for the acquisition of university points of to the study of History itself at third level. Of course, we have to admit a certain bias but the study of History also opens up or facilitates other avenues of further study for the school-leaver.

At third level a knowledge of History will prove very useful in the study of Politics, Economics, Sociology and Geography.

The study of History will improve the student’s ability to collect, select, analyse and present information – advantageous in any line of work in which research plays a major part.

The study of History enhances a student’s understanding of the way society operates at different levels and how each level interacts – “A society sure of its values needs history only to celebrate the glories of the past, but a society of change values and consequent confusions also need history as a utilitarian guide”. Lionel Kachan.

HOME ECONOMICS SOCIAL AND SCIENTIFIC

Home Economics Social and Scientific is an applied subject combining theory with practice in order to develop understanding and solve problems. It is concerned with the way individuals and families manage their resources to meet physical, emotional, intellectual, social and economic needs.

The aims of the course include the following:

- To provide continuity and progression from the aims and content of the Junior Certificate Home Economics programme.
- To allow students acquire and develop the knowledge, understanding, skills, competence and attitudes necessary to contribute to a personal and family environment conducive to human development, health and happiness.
- To provide a suitable basis for the formation of post-school life, with the emphases on future education and employment needs; to include the particular needs of the food industry, clothing, textile and craft industries, tourism, social and health services.
- To provide students to develop and apply the management skills necessary for the effective organization and management of available resources to satisfy personal and family needs in a continuously changing economic, social and technological climate”.

Course Outline

The revised Home Economics Social and Scientific course will be of particular interest to new students and for students who enjoyed Home Economics at Junior Cert Level. The new syllabus builds on the science of nutrition to all aspects learned at Junior Certificate and at senior cycle applies of nutrition to all aspects of daily living. Students who take Home Economics Social and Scientific will learn about food science and nutrition, consumer studies, money management, family studies and develop cookery skill.

What type of student

This subject is particularly suitable for those who may not want to follow a direct science career but who wish to have a science subject in the leaving. It is particularly suited to a student who equally enjoy practical and academic work. The subject is largely a continuation of what is studied in the junior cert of hard work and motivation especially for the study of food science. Most fifth year students admit that Home Economics at Junior is very interesting but it is more difficult than, than Home Economics at Junior Cert Level.

Assessment

Assessment is both written and practical (Higher and Ordinary). The practical work is assessed separately to the value of 20% of the total marks in November of the LC year.

Career Opportunities

Home Economics Social and Scientific will be of particular use to any student intending on perusing careers in teaching, science related course such as nutrition, dietetics, nursing, microbiology, the food industry fashion and design, community and health education within the health boards, setting up your own education within the health boards, for careers in social work, setting up your own business, hotel and catering and banking.

FRENCH

The French course is a continuation of the Junior Cert course to a more advanced level. B is required at Junior Cert. to take up honours at Leaving Cert. The student is expected to read magazines and to tune in to French radio and TV 5.

Oral assessment

General conversation with the option of also discussing a picture or document of the pupils choice.

Listening Comprehension

Candidates will listen to a CD – recording and answer questions on what they have heard, e.g. public announcements, extracts from radio, conversations overheard, etc.

Reading Comprehension

Candidates will demonstrate an understanding of information from menus, public signs, brochures, etc. Higher level candidates will explore levels of meaning and of literary & journalistic texts.

Written Production

The candidates will use the language to communicate feelings and attitudes and to explain, discuss and summarise given texts.

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| Exam: Higher | Oral 25% | Aural 20% | Written 55% |
| Ordinary | Oral 20% | Aural 25% | Written 55% |

This is the most popular language with Leaving Certificate students. Since a large percentage of marks go to oral and aural examinations in the continental languages, it is advisable for students to take part in exchange programmes or to go to those European countries on holiday to experience the spoken language first – hand.

Knowledge of a continental language is now highly desirable and third – level colleges offer opportunities to students to study in Europe during their course (they may spend third year in a European college, therefore proficiency in the language in which the course is taught is necessary, e.g. Business studies in French).

German

What sort of subject?

The Leaving Certificate syllabus in German at Leaving Certificate emphasis is the **communicative approach** to the language. This means the syllabus is very **student orientated** and requires a type of “**encounter German**” to be studied. It prepares the pupil in the type of language which she would experience if working in, or on a visit to Germany. A high honours standard in the Junior Cert. is required to do Honours in the Leaving Cert.

The emphasis is on creating skills in:

1. Speaking German (general conversation and role-playing)
2. How to carry on a telephone conversation in German.
3. Understanding radio broadcasts (news, documentaries etc).
4. Reading comprehension (contemporary literary and journalistic).
5. Writing letters in German, both personal and formal.
6. Leaving notes for people in German.
7. Writing longer pieces in German based on themes arising from the texts used for reading comprehension.
8. Grammar exercises
9. “Landeskunde” or knowledge of the German-speaking world. This is a study of geography, customs, culture, contemporary scene etc., in the German-speaking countries.

Format of the Examination

The German Examination consists of the following elements:

- Oral test
- Aural test
- Reading comprehension (two pieces, one from a literary source, and the other from a journalistic source).
- Written Comprehension in the form of a letter/dialogue/essay type piece, all based on a theme from a text or other source.

Applied Grammar question based on examples contained in one of the reading texts. The combined marks allocated for the oral and aural comprehension elements of the L.C. German is 45%.

What type of student?

The syllabus will suit the average student who is encouraged or feels motivated by career requirements, travel or further study, It is no longer confined to the “A” student with a flair for the “classical” approach to language. It suits any student who wishes to speak the language and who is prepared to explore its communicative aspects.

Career Links

Business Germany is one of Ireland’s main trading partners. Many Irish business people require a working knowledge of the German language to engage effectively with the German Economy. The demand is for people who are proficient in writing, typing and communication in many branches of commerce through German. The language is also fast becoming a “lingua franca” in many of the emerging economies of Eastern Europe.

Marketing The Management of Coras Trachtala have said that their representatives in various countries have only become effective when they learned the local language – even just for social purposes.

Job Opportunities In an enlarged European Union: a good knowledge of one or more of the languages of the countries of the EU, particularly German, will give the student an obvious advantage and increased mobility when competing for jobs in the European jobs market.

Undergraduate and Graduate courses at University, Regional College and Third-level generally. There is now a very wide choice of courses at third level where Leaving Certificate German forms the basis for pursuing a course in computer science, marketing, tourism and education. This choice is increasing on an annual basis both in Irish and British third level colleges. Many former pupils from Loreto who opted for German for the L.C. have pursued courses of this kind with great success. This includes several who have studied for a time at German third level colleges.

Technical Drawing

What sort of subject?

Is intended to improve the students graphics and visualization skills and their creative ability. The subject is designed to cater for all levels of ability by systematically stimulating and advancing the inexperienced and by developing and challenging the more able.

It encourages students to solve graphical problems creatively by applying spatial reasoning and geometric principles and concepts, as well as selecting appropriate graphics in communicating ideas and solutions.

Technical Drawing develops intellectual qualities of comprehension, analysis and problem solving as well as the skills of manipulation and dexterity and development of overall design sensitivity.

Two papers: 1) Plane and Solid Geometry 2) Building Application.

What sort of student?

Must have good spatial ability and good problem solving skills – be technically minded.

Technical Drawing is a difficult subject and requires Junior Cert. Technical Graphics to undertake it in the Leaving Certificate. Honors in the Junior Cert. is essential for the Higher Course in the Leaving Cert.

Career Links:

All Engineering and Engineering Technician careers: Aircraft Technician; Architecture and Architectural Technician; Army and Air Corps Apprenticeship; Cartographer; Industrial Designer; Maintenance and Service Personnel; Technical Sales; Structural Design; Printing; Town Planner; Draughtsperson; Industrial Engineer.

Art

What sort of subject?

The leaving Certificate Art (production and practices in art and design) is broken down as

- follows:
- 1 Imaginative Composition or Still Life
 - 2 Craft (Art Metalwork) or Design
 - 3 Life Drawing
 - 4 History & General Appreciation of Art

Artists largely concern themselves with self-expression while designers concentration problem solving and practical skills. Students of art have an opportunity to leave the normal classroom and gain satisfaction from developing their creative skills.

After completing J.C. Art which is project based, the leaving cert is an exam situation ie. A Poster must be completed in a 2.5 hour exam. Students who didn't do art for J.C. may present portfolio with samples of work, but it is a difficult choice if the basic drawing skills have not been developed.

What sort of student?

Creative students who have a good imagination are able to analyse and question their work, think in a logical manner and produce original solutions, they will be expected to work under pressure at times to meet deadlines. High levels of drawing ability are not required initially but commitment to the subject is essential. The informality of the art room generally creates a pleasant communal atmosphere , which encourages the sharing of ideas and techniques.

Students can get advice on Portfolios if they wish to progress to third level courses in art while many other students enjoy art, attain good grades in the Leaving Certificate and achieve high points in the subjects for entry to the third level courses of their choice.

Career Links
Art College Courses

Art Colleges

**Fine art, craftwork, fashion, photography, film making,
Graphics, industrial design, education etc.
Dun Laoghaire College of Art and Design
D.I.T. (College of Marketing & Design)
Limerick College of Art
Crawford College of Art, Cork
Various Regional Technical Colleges**

Art Teaching

Direct entry into the Education Faculty, N.C.A.D.
after having followed a recognised degree/diploma
course, followed by The Principles of Teaching
Courses.

**Industrial Design
History of Art B.A.
Architecture**

N.C.A.D./Limerick University
UCD/TCD
UCD & Bolton Street (D.I.T.)
NB: Bolton Street requires a portfolio of Art & Craft
which is submitted at time of interview.

Music

What sort of subject?

Involves continuation of practical work – introduces “Music Technology” (25% of H.C.).

Listening Skills- four compositions studied in detail including music from Bach “The Beatles” .

Composition: Develops the art of composition and melody writing.

Develop knowledge on Traditional Irish Music and modern trends in Irish music.

The aim of the course is to advance the musical skills of the students so they can engage in worthwhile musical activities enjoyable and profitably; to provide sufficient musical experience and factual information to enable the students to develop and practice listening and composing skills with greater understanding and interest.

Students and teachers may choose a considerable amount of their own material and its approach, as suits their individual and particular needs. All students will be required, as for the Junior Cert., to perform vocally or instrumentally, and may opt for any category, namely classical, traditionally, pop, jazz, etc.

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----|
| Higher Level: | 1 Performing elective | 25% |
| | 2 Listening | 25% |
| | 3 Composition | 25% |

Can choose elective in any of 3 categories for final 25%

What sort of student?

Willing to work

Willing to participate

Has a sense of fun

Already enjoys some aspect of music

Has an instrument (singing, recorder, guitar, etc..)

Career Links

Music Technology (pop music) / Music Management (Arts, Teaching) / Journalism (music column) / Researcher in TV/Media / Performing

L.C.V.P

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme is an intervention designed to enhance the vocational dimension of the Leaving Certificate. The LCVP combines the academic strengths of the Leaving Certificate with a new and dynamic focus on self-directed learning, enterprise, work and the community. Throughout the programme students are encouraged to

Be innovative and enterprising
Take responsibility for their own learning
Adapt to changing circumstance
Evaluate data and devise solutions to problems
Communicate their thoughts and ideas effectively
Work with others as part of a team
Investigate and plan career options
Use information and communications technologies
Investigate local business and community enterprises
Learn from their experiences.

LCVP students are required to take two link modules **PREPARATION FOR THE WORLD OF WORK** and **ENTERPRISE EDUCATION**. Link module activities provide a setting in which connections can be made between a student's vocational subjects and the world outside school.

WORK: This module is designed to develop students' general understanding of the world of work, introduce them to career research and provide them with the knowledge and skills to find employment. As part of this module each student is expected to complete a career investigation and engage in a work experience or work shadowing placement.

ENTERPRISE: This module aims to develop creativity, resourcefulness, self-confidence and initiative. Students are encouraged to interview enterprising people, investigate local enterprises and to set up their own enterprise projects as vehicles of learning.

The vocational subject groupings available in St. Michael's are:

Home Ec & Biology
Accounting & Business
Accounting & Economics
Physics & Chemistry
Home Ec & Economics
Art & Business
Art & Accounting
Music & Accounting

Home Ec & Art
Accounting & Economics
Business & Economics
Biology & Business
Home Ec & Accounting
Art & Economics
Music & Business
Music & Economics

In addition, all LCVP students must take a foreign language for their Leaving Certificate or do a vocational language module if they have no foreign language.

ASSESSMENT: Students present a portfolio of work done over the two years of the programme. This portfolio contains four core items: Curriculum Vitae, A Career Investigation, A Summary Report, An Enterprise /Action Plan and two optional items from: A Diary of Work Experience, An Enterprise Report, A Recorded Interview or Presentation, A Report on “My Own Place”. The portfolio represents 60% of the marks. The written test consists of a Video Presentation of an Enterprise with questions thereon, A Case Study, and General Questions (40%).

POINTS ETC. Most colleges will give points for the LCVP, but some will not recognise it as a separate subject. UCD, for example, will award points but require that the student pass six other subjects to fulfil the subject requirements of the college.

Link Modules Certification

| | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|
| Distinction | (80 -100%) | 70 Points (=HC3) |
| Merit | (65 – 79%) | 50 Points (=HD2) |
| Pass | (50 – 64%) | 30 Points (=OC) |

Transition Year Programme

What is the Transition Year?

The Transition Year is a one-year programme between the end of the Junior Certificate and the beginning of the Leaving Certificate programme.

Does the Transition Year have a fixed curriculum?

The programme provides for the development of personal and social skills. It encourages research and activity-based self-directed learning, both inside and outside the classroom. The Transition Year provides intellectual challenge for all students.

What are the main benefits of doing the Transition Year?

A significant benefit to the student is the space provided by the year to grow and mature at a sensitive and key stage of transition through adolescence into young adult life. By sampling a wide range of subject areas students can make more informed choices about the kind of Leaving Certificate programme they may wish to follow at the end of the Transition Year. It is suggested that those taking Transition Year achieve 15 more points in the Leaving Cert.

Activities that have featured on the Transition Year calendar:

Speakers from charitable groups

Retreat

Sign Language

Public access to law course

Irish

Maths

Home Economics

Mini-company

Science

Choir

World Affairs

Work experience - 3 weeks

Organising Peace & Social Justice week

Swimming

Outdoor pursuits weekend

Visit to the 4 courts

Young social innovators project

Aromatherapy

Pastel painting

Drama

English

French

Flower arranging

Religion

Careers

Computers

Driving course

Day trip to Paris

Debating

Skin Care

Chess

Are there exams at the end of Transition Year?

One of the objectives of the Transition Year is to free learning from an undue influence of examinations. Certification of Transition Year is school-based. School-based forms of

assessment, that identify strengths and weaknesses in the student's learning, are essential for Transition Year. Reports will be issued at Christmas so as to give parents an idea of how the year is progressing for their daughter.

Is the Transition Year a help to further study?

The vast majority of students, on completion of the Transition Year, proceed to the Leaving Certificate. It is generally recognised by teachers that a Transition Year programme equips the now more mature student with a broader range of skills and insights to deal more effectively with a Leaving Certificate programme. There is growing evidence from third-level institutions that students who have taken a Transition Year programme are more self-reliant learners.

Do students get any homework in the Transition Year?

Yes, homework is an important part of Transition Year. In addition to traditional styles of homework, students do projects, assignments, interviews and research on a variety of topics. These can involve students in a considerable amount of demanding work.

Assessment.

During the year students will be assessed on an ongoing basis. Assessment will vary from subject to subject. It may be of written or oral form and may include assessment of project work, display or presentation.

Cost

Approx 300 Euro per year. It is important to bear in mind that very little books have to be bought and that cover all activities that the girls will be involved in. We also try to encourage local business to sponsor modules of the course.

Certificate & Graduation

At the end of the year parents are invited to a formal presentation of certificates, including a Transition Year Certificate, awarded by the school. The ceremony includes a liturgy, a display of students' work and a buffet organized by the students.

