

Subject Choice for Second Year

Plus overview of good study practise

Preparation in School

- All First Year students have a Guidance class about making their subject choice where they can clarify any issues and ask questions.
- They can send a Chat text to Ms. Gubbins if they have any questions

In First Year Students “taste” all 17 Subjects:

- Irish, English, Mathematics, Religion,
- CSPE (Civic Social and Political Education)
- SPHE (Social Personal and Health Education)
- PE (Physical Education)
- History, Geography,
- French, German,
- Art, Business, Home Economics, Music,
- Science
- Technology.

In Second and Third Year Everyone Studies these subjects (Core Subjects) :

- Irish
- English
- Mathematics
- Religion
- History
- Geography
- P.E.
- C.S.P.E.
- S.P.H.E.

Students also chose 4 other subjects from:

- Art
- Business
- French
- German
- Home Economics
- Science
- Technology
- Music

Date to decide by:

- Thursday 25th February 2021
- With your parents you will enter your 5 choices in VSWare. This facility will open in the week of the deadline so that you have time to think carefully beforehand.
- We will try to give you your first four choices.
- **But we cannot guarantee this.**
- **The order you list your choices is really important.**
- If you **really need** a subject it must go **first or second** on the list.
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Where to get information:

- **Guidance Class** on Subject choice
- **School Christmas Report** – which subjects are you doing better at?
- **PowerPoint Presentation for Parents** on the school website.
- Your parents will be able to see your Progress Report on VSWare.

Guidelines for Choosing cont.

- You will do better at a subject you find **interesting**.
- Choose the subjects you are **good at**. Look at your homework and tests.

Some Subjects are Necessary for courses

- Apart from the core subjects, the main subjects which might be necessary for some courses, are **science and a Third Language**.
- Unless you find these subject too difficult it is a good idea to keep them on until Junior Certificate level at least.
- If you find these subjects very difficult in First Year you are likely to find them even more difficult in Second and Third Years also.

Required Subjects

- www.qualifax.ie,
- use Useful Tools to find out which subjects are definitely required for courses.
- Click Students, Click Useful Tool, Click Minimum Subject Requirements
- Click Junior Certificate Subjects, select from the drop-down menu,
- click What is available regarding Third Level courses if I **do not** have.
- Click Courses I cannot do without a

Some Careers where Science is necessary:

Beauty Therapy (most courses),

Dental Hygienist, Dental Nurse (some courses), Dentist,
Dietician,

Engineer

Food Scientist,

Doctor, Pharmacist, Radiographer,

Nurse, Paramedic

Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist,

Optometrist, Physiotherapist,

Vet, Veterinary Nurse.

Third /European Language (French and German)

Passing a European language at Leaving Cert level is necessary as an entry requirement for many courses.

For this reason unless a student finds languages very difficult in First Year, it is important to keep on one European language.

Apart from this it is a real advantage in the workplace to be able to communicate in another language – especially since Brexit.

A Third Language

- **Necessary for all courses except Nursing and some Science/Engineering courses in the following:**
- University College Cork
- University College Dublin
- NUI Galway
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- St. Angela's College of Education, Sligo
- National College of Art and Design
- Shannon College of Hotel Management

Maynooth University (**However not necessary for Business and Law or Primary Teaching in Maynooth University**)

University Exemptions

- Students who have an exemption from Irish **because of a learning difficulty e.g. dyslexia** are likely to be able to get an exemption from the Third Language requirement for entry to NUI colleges.
- This exemption can only be applied for when the student has selected her Fifth Year subjects.
- Students can also apply for exemptions to the University of Limerick, if because of specific learning difficulties e.g. dyslexia English is the only language they study.

Link Modules/LCVP

- Extra subject in Fifth Year
- Practical subject relating to the workplace and enterprise.
- **Cannot be taken unless student is studying either French or German in school.**

Some Useful Subjects for Various Careers

- **Art** – Graphic Design, Architect, Architectural Technician, Interior Designer, Art Therapist, Primary Teacher.
- **Music** – Music Technologist, Performer, Primary Teacher, Music Therapist, Music Production.
- **Business** – Accounting, Management, Economist, Marketing, Human Resources, Insurance.
- **Home Economics** – Hotel Management, Chef, Food Science, Social Work/Sociology
- **Technology** –Engineering, Science, Electrician, Plumber etc.

Languages spoken at home

- It is possible to sit the Leaving Certificate in certain languages if students speak them at home and prepares for the exam outside school.

These languages are:

- Arabic
- Bulgarian
- Croatian, Czech, Chinese, Danish, Dutch
- Estonian, Finnish
- Hebrew Studies, Hungarian
- Italian, Japanese
- Latvian, Lithuanian
- Modern Greek, Polish, Portuguese
- Romanian, Russian
- Slovakian, Spanish, Swedish

Study Skills

- How to get the most out of the time you put into study.

Important to consider!

Students need:

- Quiet Place
- No distractions – TV, Phone, Social Media
- Organisation - desk, shelf or cupboard
- Good lighting
- Temperature, not too cold or too warm

Use the School Journal to be organised

- Use the school journal to **write homework and decide which books to take home.**
- Use the school journal as **reminder** for PE clothes, Home Economics ingredients etc.
- Good idea to have a **copy of the timetable** at home as well.
- It is a good idea to **start homework as early as possible** and so avoid doing it when the student is tired.

Read more, understand more!

- Reading improves general knowledge.
- It improves vocabulary and spelling.
- It develops concentration.
- Have a book in your bag!

Healthy Balanced Lifestyle

Healthy food

Enough sleep - **at least** 8 hours – probably more for teenagers.

Leave mobile phones out of the bedroom.

Fresh air and exercise

Recreation and breaks

Keep up an interest in extracurricular activities in a balanced way.

A Good Study Method

- Scan
- Question
- Learn (making notes)
- Test Yourself
- Learn Again

Scan

- **Scan** – the headings, bold print and parts underlined from class.
- This is a reminder about the material that is to be studied.
- This gets the brain focused on the task.

Question

- **Question** – ask as many questions as you can think of about the main headings.
- Your mind engages and is more active when it is trying to answer questions.
- This promotes interest rather than an attempt to “learn off” material.
- This should only take about two minutes.

Learn – also make notes

- **Read** – Read the text trying **to learn** the material and answer the questions you have come up with.
- It is better to read **small sections** and go back over them than to read through the whole text.
- Read a number of times until you feel **you have a good knowledge of the piece.**
- Make notes or highlight important points as you learn. These notes can be kept for revision.
- Notes can be bullet point, spider diagrams, mind-maps or flash cards.

Test how much you remember

- Test how much you can recall.
- One can test oneself by writing out brief notes or orally.

Learn again

- **Read again** – are there gaps in your knowledge? Go back and fill them in!
- Most people will not remember all the information and will have to go over particular points again.

Mistakes to avoid

- Rewriting large sections of information - This takes too much time.
- Just “looking over” material without making any notes or testing yourself
- Trying to “learn off” without understanding or engaging with the material.

Thank you for your time and attention!

Be accepting of your own efforts and results. Every girl is different and if you are doing your best then that is good enough. It is not possible for every student to achieve an A in every subject and it is not necessary in order to do well in life.

Recap

- Try to study in a suitable room with a desk etc.
- Eat healthy food and take enough rest
- Plan time for interests as well as study.
- Rest and take full breaks during the holidays.
- Become independent and responsible.
- Use a good study method and make notes or underline.