

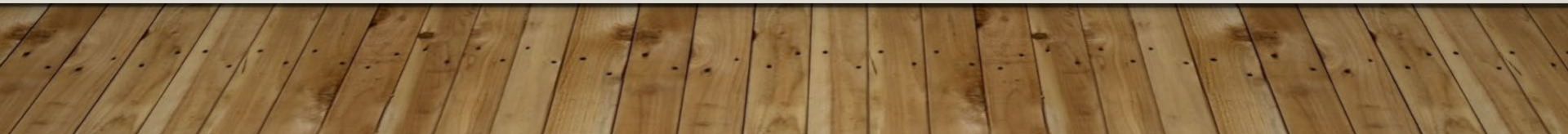
Junior Cycle Subject Options

Guidance & Counselling Service

From January 19th 2024

Topics

- Subjects on offer
- Supports available to help you
- What to consider when making the decision
- Information for Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
- Submitting Subject Option Forms



Core Subjects for Junior Cycle

State Examinable Subjects

- Irish (H and O)
- English (H and O)
- Mathematics (H and O)
- History (C)
- Geography (C)
- (plus 4 choice subjects)

Non- State Examinable Subjects

- Religious Education (RE)
- Wellbeing:
 1. Civic Social & Political Education (CSPE)
 2. Social Political & Health Education (SPHE)
 3. Physical Education (PE)

For Students: Your Supports

- **Parents** – Can talk it through with you, if you are unsure
- **Teachers** – Can tell you about their subject in class
- **Guidance Counsellor** – Can tell you about what choice subjects will be required to get into particular college courses later.
- **IMPORTANT:** It's your choice, so choose what is best for YOU, subjects that YOU may need later, that YOU like, that YOU enjoy.

Online - Up To Date Information



www.curriculumonline.ie

Information on Junior Cycle subjects

www.careersportal.ie

Communities Section - Junior Cycle Subjects



YOUR CHOICES

**REQUIRE
CONSIDERATION**

Choice Subjects – All Common Level

(The school will try to facilitate your top 4)

Choose 6 Subjects in order of Preference with No 1 being the subject you most want to keep on

Art

Business Studies

Your chosen 3rd Language

Home Economics

Music

Science

Firstly Consider.....

Junior Cycle subjects that divide in Senior Cycle: 5th Year

What was SCIENCE, divides into 3 separate subjects:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

What was BUSINESS, divides into 2 separate subjects:

- Business
- Accounting

Consider *Now.....* For College Later

You are not expected to know what career/course you want to take after secondary school. However, there are subjects you will need to keep for particular college courses.

Taking this into consideration, it's important that you keep your options open as much as possible now.

Two areas of particular relevance now are third languages and science.



Consider *Now* For College *Later*

3rd Language (Subject French, German)

National University of Ireland (NUI)

UCC, UCD, NUIG, NUIM

- 3rd Language (French or German) is a General Entry Requirement for *MANY, NOT ALL* courses at NUI's, through the CAO
- If you are exempt from Irish and 3rd language, your exemption will cover you, these general entry requirements don't apply.
- If you were born outside Ireland but have taken Irish since primary school, Irish will cover your 3rd language requirement

Third Language Requirement For Other Careers/Courses

- Cadetship (officer) in Army, Air Corps, Navy (unless exempt)
- College courses that have a specific requirement for a third language, where a 3rd language is a large part of the course

No Third Language Required For General Entry To:

- Trinity College Dublin
- University of Limerick / Mary Immaculate College Limerick
- Dublin City University
- Institutes of Technology/Technological University – e.g.'s CIT (now Munster Technological University), WIT
- Post Leaving Certificate Courses
- NUI's - Science/Engineering courses, Nursing (CHECK WEBSITES)

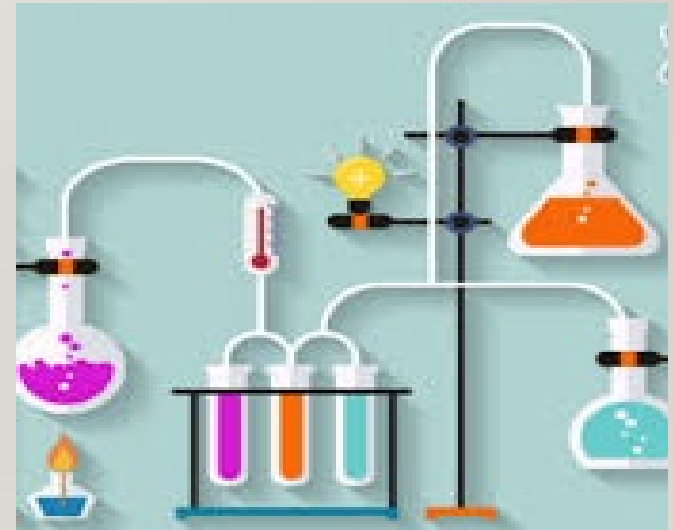
LANGUAGE EXEMPTIONS

- If you are exempt from Irish and/or 3rd language, you can still qualify to get into a university without them.
- If you are exempt from Irish on the grounds of nationality you can still get into university without it.
- If you were born outside Ireland and educated fully in Ireland, you can use Irish to meet 3rd language entry requirements, so you don't need to keep on 3rd language.

Consider *Now* For College Later

Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

- Many science/science related courses require 1 and in some instances, 2 science subjects.



Base Your Decision on What Suits YOU

1. The subjects you need to keep options open
2. What subjects you enjoy and do well in with effort
3. What are the subjects that compliment each other
4. Getting a balance of subjects (practical vs. non practical)

Common mistakes

- Following what friends are doing, instead of making the best choice for YOU
- Basing decision on amount of work you think is involved in the subject, every subject requires effort
- Making assumptions about who is teaching the subject
- Relying *only* on non-professional opinions or outdated information



The Safe Bets To Keeping Options Open

- English
- Irish (if exemption, you are covered)
- Maths
- Science
- 3rd Language (if exempt, you are covered for general entry requirements)



Note: With the above subjects, you are covered for almost every course in country.

BACK DOOR ROUTES TO COLLEGE

If you *really* struggle with some choice subjects required for specific college courses , there are back door routes into many of these college courses without them.

e.g. PLC Colleges – 1 Year course with entry to reserved places on courses.

Getting The Best From Supports

- Speak to your teachers about the subjects in class. They have a good grasp of your abilities and can guide you in relation to subject content, assessment for Junior and Leaving Cert.
- If you are unsure about consequences for college later, please send a message or call into the offices of Ms. Hennessy/Ms Egan
- Information presented here is available on 1st Year Team account and on the school website/app.

Information for Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

- Keep an open mind, much has changed in terms of subject content and assessment since the introduction of the new Junior Cycle.
- Facilitate your child making the decision as much as possible.
- Encourage seeking support at the school if they are struggling with the decision.
- Important that informed decisions are based on up-to-date and correct information.

For Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Subject Information

Optional Subjects In Terms Of Content, Assessment

- Students have had a taster of each choice subject, so check with them which subjects they are leaning towards.
- We encourage students speaking to subject teachers in class/via email about what is expected over the next 2 years. This can help with making the decision regarding a student's suitability for a subject.

For Parent(s)/Guardian(s): College Implications

- College websites and the Guidance Counsellor have the most up to date information in terms of college implications.
- Encourage seeking an educational one-to-one guidance session with Ms. Hennessy/Ms Egan if there is struggle with making the decision.
- This can help with making a subject choice decision now regarding a student's progression to college later.



Parent(s)/Guardian(s) - Filling Out The Online Subject Choice Form

Complete forms online using the school VShare.

Details on how to access VShare and fill/submit forms will be posted on the school app/website. You will also receive a reminder text. Contact the school if your contact details have changed, or you have not received the text.

List subjects in order of preference 1-6, No 1 being the subject of highest interest. The school will do its best to facilitate the top 4 preferences.

Forms must be submitted online by Thursday 1st February

Send an email to vshare@stmarysmidleton.com if you are having issues regarding submissions of your forms.



thank
you!

The text "thank you!" is rendered in a playful, rounded font. The word "thank" is on the top line, and "you!" is on the bottom line. The letters are multi-colored: 't' is pink, 'h' is orange, 'a' is yellow, 'n' is teal, 'k' is light pink, 'y' is teal, 'o' is light pink, and 'u' is orange. The exclamation point is yellow. There are six starburst accents: one yellow star above the 't', one light blue star below the 't', one light pink star below the 'h', one light pink star above the 'k', one light pink star to the right of the 'k', and one light blue star below the 'y'.