Contents

Introduction to Senior Cycle Options

When choosing Options for Senior Cycle, students and parents should be advised of the following:

Choosing your subject is not choosing your career!

For the most part the subjects you choose or have chosen do not determine your career. You are not locked into certain careers if you choose certain subjects and not locked out of others if you have not studied them. So for example you don't have to have studied Accountancy (or any business subject) to become an accountant. Nor do you have to have studied Engineering at Leaving Cert to become an engineer. So the fact that you choose not to study certain subjects does not always mean you are eliminating particular career paths.

For those of you not considering Transition Year or who are doing it now you must make your choices for the Leaving Certificate. This handbook should help to clear up some of the mystery surrounding subject choice.

Remember, you are not asked to choose a career at this point, but you are asked to choose subjects that will allow you to pursue studies or careers in those areas you are interested in and for which you have an aptitude.

When choosing subjects remember:

1. Choose subjects that you **enjoy.**
2. Pick subjects that you have an **aptitude** for and will therefore give you the highest possible grades.
3. Choose subjects where you have achieved **good grades.**

All Subjects, except for Higher Level Maths, are the same for calculation of points for University/College entry. Points are calculated on your best 6 subjects.

A **bonus points scheme operates for Higher Level Maths**. Students can now attain 25 bonus points for a Higher H6 or above

Students should **strongly consider LCVP.** This will act as an eighth subject and contain topics which will be of significant benefit for students. There are up to 66 Points available for LCVP.

Do not pick a subject (or Senior Cycle Programme) solely because your friends are doing that subject or course. Follow your own interests when making your decision.

General Requirements for Third Level

You should bear in mind the following:

- A **Modern Language.** Either French or German must be passed at Ordinary Level for *entry* to the National University of Ireland (UCD, UCC, NUIG and Maynooth University) ***with the exception of courses in Agriculture, Science, Nursing, Social Science and Engineering.***. It is also required for entry to the Army and Air Corps Cadets. It is *not required* for Trinity College in Dublin, the Dublin Institute of Technology, Dublin City University, University of Limerick or the Institutes of Technology *unless* a modern language is part of the course being studied.

- **Science Subject,** one of Physics, Biology, Chemistry or Agricultural Science is required for entry to all Medical, Paramedical, Science, Engineering and Technical courses at University. Two are required for some courses at Trinity and UCC. Nursing also requires a science subject. The IT's do not require a science subject, even for their Applied Science courses, though, of course, it would be very useful.

- **Higher Mathematics** is required for all Engineering courses at University (level 8), but not for Higher Certificate and Degree courses in the Institutes of Technology (levels 6 and 7). In most cases it is at least H5 grade. All colleges give 25 extra points for Higher Maths at grade H6 or higher.

- **Points** are calculated on the *best six* subjects in *any one sitting* of the Leaving Certificate. With the exception of Higher Maths and the Link Modules of LCVP ***all subjects count equally***. Note that points only come into play after you have the *minimum entry requirements and the specific course requirements* for the course you are applying for. These last two can be met by combining two or more Leaving Certificate results. For points, however, you will have to use a single set of results.

- **Other Considerations** need to be kept in mind for careers and courses. For example Art Colleges admit people on the basis of a Portfolio of works combined with exam results. You should be working on this from now if you wish to go there. Drama and music courses require an audition. Careers in the Guards, Army and Pilots are entered by tough interviews and medical examinations. Medicine requires that you sit a HPAT exam and add the score from this to your Leaving Certificate points.

- No **easy options** exist at Leaving Certificate level. All subjects demand a great amount of work and study. They are taught over two years and it is *essential* that you work on them over that time. You cannot expect to get decent results by cramming two years' work into the last few months or weeks. So, from day one you should work to get the best Leaving Certificate you can.

Think about what you want to do, consider what your aptitudes, talents and skills are and where your interests lie, which subject you would be likely to do well in, try not to cut off options at third level unless you're very sure, and consult with your parents and your Guidance Counsellor before you decide on your subject options.

Senior Cycle Options

Heywood Community School offers two different programmes to Senior Cycle students as outlined below, including two Leaving Certificate options that cater for the different interests and abilities of the students in our care.

1. Transition Year

   This is an optional one-year programme for students who have completed the Junior Cert.

2. Established Leaving Certificate

   There are two two-year programmes for Leaving Cert. students.

a) Established Leaving Certificate
b) Established Leaving Certificate **plus** LCVP

What are my choices?

Students currently in 3rd year can opt for 1 of the below:

a) TY
b) Established Leaving Cert (incl. LCVP)

Students currently in TY must select subjects for Leaving Cert

Students who choose the Established Leaving Cert must **choose 4 subjects**. Details of these subjects are outlined in detail in the following pages.

Please read this booklet carefully to help you make an informed decision.

Transition Year Programme

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Transition Year provides a bridge between Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate. It offers a broad educational experience promoting the personal, social academic and vocational development of each student. It provides teachers with opportunities to create new learning environments in which each student can discover their own individual talents, aptitudes and abilities.

Transition Year is an optional year in Heywood Community School. As our numbers in TY have increased over the years, the programme can facilitate up to 4 class groups. We strive to develop a curriculum that helps our students develop skills and grow in ways that will aid their experience in their Leaving Certificate courses in 5th and 6th year and beyond the classroom.

Transition year has 4 component parts. This way of organizing the programme helps students carry on with core subjects that they need for the Leaving Certificate curriculum as well as sampling subjects they may not have studied before.

Core Subjects	English, Irish, Maths, Geography, History, Communications, ICT, Careers and P.E. and R.E.
Subject Sampling (Rotation modules)	Chemistry, Biology, Ag. Science, Physics, Home Economics, Construction Studies, Design, Art etc.
TY Specific subjects	Enterprise, Horticulture, Environmental studies, Sign Language, Cookery, Photography, Music, YSI
TY Calendar layer activities	Career Fairs/College visits, Interview skills, School Musical, Activity adventure days, Competitions, Law Education for Schools workshop, Work Experience, Community Care, Charity work, St Vincent de Paul, John Paul 2 awards, Gaisce, First Aid, Driving, Personal Safety and Self Defence , TY School trip abroad etc.

The following aims of Transition Year are interrelated and interdependent and are reflected in our programme.

- Education for maturity with the emphasis on personal development including social awareness and increased social competence.
- The promotion of general, technical and academic skills with the emphasis on self – directed learning.
- Education through experiences of adult and working life as a basis for personal development and maturity.

We strive to provide a broad and engaging programme. It is educational, developmental and fun! Outings, work experience and visits of external groups/speakers to the school bring the outside world to the students and helps them see that there are many and varied opportunities to learn beyond the classroom.

Assessment of students work is ongoing in Transition Year. The TY Co-ordinator, tutors and teachers follow a concise credit assessment system for each module and subject. Self-directed learning is promoted across the programme where credits are awarded in each subject area for projects, presentations, research, oral assessments as well as conduct and attendance in each class.

TY Portfolio assessment is another mandatory component of how students are evaluated. The students are informed and prepared for this during their induction week and during their weekly Tutorial Class.

Students assess their own work and complete a portfolio or logbook to reflect and evaluate key learning experiences throughout the year. Students choose key pieces of work for inclusion in the portfolio having completed a task, subject or module. A clearly defined marking scheme of the portfolio helps determine the students' final grade.

Portfolio Interview (May)

- Each student is interviewed by a panel of at least two teachers
- Interview is approx. 15 mins during which the student is assessed both on the presentation of their learning experiences and their portfolio.
- Two separate grades are awarded according to a marking scheme
- TY Co-ordinator /tutors enter results on school report with comments

Credits are also awarded for students' participation, motivation and enthusiasm for the programme throughout the year. Certification is awarded with Distinction, Merit and Pass levels.

The TY Programme is reviewed and evaluated internally by the co-ordinating team in close co-operation with school management, staff, students, parents, employers and external groups. Feedback is obtained from parents, students and staff evaluations at the end of the year. The information obtained is used to form judgements and help us review our

programme for the following year. We strive to make our Transition year programme as financially friendly as possible on parents. We do not charge a large TY fee as in some schools but focus instead on providing a wide range of learning opportunities both inside and beyond the classroom.

Established Leaving Certificate

Subject Choice

At Leaving Cert. examination level, students study seven or eight subjects. For state examinations, they study:

3 Core Subjects:

- *Irish (unless exemption granted)*
- *English*
- *Maths*

4 more Options

Students may also be eligible for LCVP

Total Subjects = 7 (8 with LCVP)

Important

Selecting subjects can be difficult if you are unsure about any further education or careers steps you wish to take in the future. Then one way to keep your opportunities for 3rd level study as varied as possible would be to make a choice similar to the following:

- Irish
- English
- Maths
- Modern Language (French or German)
- One from Physics/Chemistry, Biology or Agricultural Science
- Any 2 other subjects

However, it is still vital that you choose the subjects that appeal to you the most whether it is for personal or academic purposes.

Core Subjects

English

As English is the predominant language of communication in this country almost all universities, colleges and employers specify a pass at Ordinary Level English as a minimum requirement. Some will accept a pass in our other official language, Irish, instead and some demand both. It is very important that you pass English (at higher or ordinary level) as a fail at either level can eliminate you from almost all university courses as well as careers like the Gardaí, teaching, the civil service and nursing. You will need it at Higher Level for certain courses in Communications, Journalism and Speech Therapy. Check the college requirements for the courses you are interested in.

If you are a borderline Higher/Ordinary level student, you need to make a decision about your level towards the end of Fifth Year as Higher level demands a significant amount of time for reading, learning quotes, composing, writing and re-writing exam answers (which are lengthy). The Higher level syllabus has much more poetry together with a compulsory Shakespeare drama and an extra novel/drama.

If English is not your native language you may have to show your competency in English by means of a recognised examination or certificate. Check with the colleges for details.

Irish

Irish is the first official language of the state and it is required for entry to the National University of Ireland (NUI) with its colleges of UCD, UCC, NUI Galway and Maynooth and some smaller colleges. So for any courses in these colleges you need to have Irish in your Leaving Certificate. In certain cases you may be eligible for an exemption from Irish. If you feel you are entitled to an exemption you must contact the Guidance Counsellor in your school to research this.

If you have, or can get such an exemption and are applying to the NUI make sure you send them details of the exemption certified by the school so that you don't lose out on a place. The Gardaí require two languages, English and another language which could be Irish, Polish, Chinese or Lithuanian. You will have to learn Irish as part of your Garda training.

You can use Irish to satisfy the need for a second language for entry to Trinity College Dublin (TCD) or the University of Limerick or Dublin City University. You will need a H4 or better in Higher Level Irish if you want to become a Primary Teacher.

There is more of an emphasis on being able to speak the language and currently the oral exam counts for 40% of the final grade. That in itself should be an encouragement to go to the Gaeltacht to improve your ability and also to experience the language as a living and vibrant feature of daily life there.

Exam Breakdown

Leaving Certificate Examination
Higher & Ordinary Level:

Oral Exam: 240 marks	40%
Aural: 60 marks	10%
Written Paper: 300 marks	50%

Mathematics

You are going to need Leaving Certificate Mathematics for a huge number of courses and jobs. For most jobs employers tend to look for numeracy skills. So you will need to show these for all those jobs including apprenticeships, nursing and the Gardaí.

Most courses at the Institutes of Technology require at least Ordinary level Maths unless it plays no part in the course (as in Social Care, Childcare or Art).

A grade O5 or better at Ordinary Level Maths is required for many Science and Commerce or Business courses in the universities. This reflects the level of Math's that has to be studied as part of these courses. Bear this in mind if Science, Business and even Psychology are on your course radar.

Higher level Mathematics is being promoted in schools. The way it is being promoted is by giving 25 extra points for any grade over a H6 at higher level. A H7 grade will get you 37 points but will not get you the extra 25 bonus points. A H6 will get you 71 points and a H1 nets you 125 points. That is one very good reason for studying it and the new Project Maths course which takes a more applied and practical approach is another. Higher Maths is required by relatively few courses. There is however one group where it is compulsory and that is the Engineering (level 8) degrees at a University. These are the courses that lead to a professional qualification as an Engineer and for each of these you need to have at least a H5 in Higher Mathematics. This is probably realistic as there is a huge amount of Mathematics that you will have to study in college and more again when you are out working.

If you're a real star at Mathematics (capable of getting an A at Higher Level) then you could be in line for training as an Actuary. These are the people who calculate the money you pay to insure your satellite dish or your satellite against accident or failure. You can also check out courses in "pure" mathematics or theoretical physics.

On the other hand if you struggle at Maths there is the possibility of doing Alternative Ordinary (commonly called Foundation) Maths. Before you opt for this though check out whether it is allowed for any course or career you might be contemplating.

French

French language learning involves building on what has been learnt at junior cycle level, and continues to covering topics in greater detail such as your family, your area, your friends, hobbies, sports, school, holidays, the French language, language learning, environment, accidents, health, addictions, current affairs etc.

Exam breakdown

Higher level

Oral Exam:

Duration (12 mins) Marks: 100 **25%**

Aural : **25%**

100 marks listening to a CD, answering questions in English.

Written Paper **50%**

Comprensions: 120 marks

Part 2: 3 written questions : 100 marks

Question 1 : 40 marks (obligatory) and a choice of 2 other questions from

2 (a or b) 3 (a or b) 4 (a or b)

each worth 30 marks each.

While it is extremely important to accumulate a large vocabulary base and key phrases its important to remember that in the French exam its all about adapting your knowledge and vocab to answer the questions. You don't have a lot to write but it needs to be well structured, too the point and answering the question. A common mistake students make is seeing a word in the question and writing everything they know on the topic rather than asking the question given.

All written questions are hugely varied and require you to adapt your grammatical knowledge and vocabulary as well as key phrases to answer a wide variety of topics you may be asked to comment on

The higher level French exam examines your ability with the French language, It is not about learning large tracts of information and regurgitating. Its rather about your understanding of the grammar and your build up of vocab, putting that together to come up with a reply to the stimulus material given

Ordinary level Exam

Oral Exam:

Duration (12 mins) Marks: 100 **20%**

Aural : **25%**

100 marks listening to a CD, answering questions in English.

Written Paper **50%**

Part 1 (4 comprehensions) (160 marks, 40 marks each)

Comprehension 1 and 2: are in French with answers in English

Comprehension 3 and 4: are in French with answers in French (with the exception of the last question which is in English and tests your overall understanding of the text, you support it with quotes from the text.

Part 2 : Written section : 60 marks: choose 2 options from the following

Section A

Part 1 : cloze test (fill in the blanks of a letter with the correct word) 30 marks

Part 2 : Form filling : fill in an application form about someone (vocab similar to oral work)

Section B and C

Postcard or Note (similar enough to junior cycle but including more detailed vocab)

Formal letter or diary entry

German

German as a Leaving Certificate subject aims to bring students closer to fluency in the German language, whilst also developing a greater knowledge of literature, culture and geography to provide a context for communication.

Senior Cycle German further enhances students' ability to understand spoken German and to communicate orally in German. Students also expand their comprehension of grammatical structures and ability to apply these to their written productions.

A wide variety of themes are covered: family, education, language learning, travel, environment, hobbies, youth problems, social justice, health and current affairs, etc,.

German as a language is becoming ever more important. Germany is the world's largest outbound market. There are currently over 250 German companies in Ireland employing in excess of 15,000 people. An ability to communicate in German can significantly enhance your career opportunities.

Exam Structure

The German exam is geared to enable you to show off your knowledge rather than to show what you don't know.

The LC German exam consists of three components- oral, aural and written.

Section	**Higher Level**	**Ordinary Level**
Oral	100 marks 25%	80 marks 20%
Aural	80 marks 20%	100 marks 25%
Written	220 marks 55%	220 marks 55%

The oral exam consists of a fifteen minute interview where students are assessed on three different sections: general questions, presentation of project or picture sequence, and role play. The oral exam takes place in March or April of 6th year.

The aural exam lasts 40 minutes. This consists of four sections. Only one section of the HL is answered in German. All other questions are answered in English.

The written exam is 2.5 hours in duration. HL consists of two reading comprehensions, a grammar section, an opinion piece, and a letter or an essay-type response to a picture. OL consists of three reading comprehensions, a grammar section, writing a dialogue, and writing

a description of a picture sequence or a letter.

College Requirements

Not taking a modern language in your LC can greatly impact your career choices in the future. Students must hold an O6 or H7 in a third language for most degree programmes in Arts, Human Sciences, Social Sciences, Medicine and Health Sciences in UCC, UCD, MU, NUIG and RCSI. A third language is also required for application to cadetships in the Defence Forces. Trinity College, DIT, DCU , UL and Institutes of Technology have a third language requirement for certain courses that have a large language component including European Studies, Languages & Marketing, Hotel Management, Languages & International Tourism. NCAD requires a third language or Art. Many science and engineering courses include the study of a third foreign language from scratch.

You also have the opportunity to study in Germany. Germany completely abolished tuition fees for undergraduate students in 2014. Many Irish colleges and universities also offer students the chance to study for a semester or academic year at a German university.

Career Opportunities

German is currently the most sought after language on the Irish labour market. Many of the world's largest firms with major operations in Ireland (Google, Facebook, Allianz, SAP, etc.) regularly recruit language graduates to work in human resources and training, finance, law, marketing and advertising, social policy, media and communications, management consultancy, computing and IT, civil service and public relations.

Other organisations continue to require significant numbers of graduates with German language skills to work in areas such as the diplomatic service, development work with NGOs, education, psychology, publishing, EU institutions, translation and interpretation, arts and culture, international trade and tourism.

Students who learn German will improve their career opportunities because the German economy is one of the strongest in the world .

Biology

The course is divided up into three well organised units:

Unit 1 – The study of Life

Introduces the Scientific Method, Characteristics of Life, Food and the Study of Ecology

Unit 2 – The cell

Introduces the structure of the cell and the important processes involved in it including photosynthesis, respiration and the popular genetics

Unit 3 – The Organism

Introduces students to the five kingdoms of life and involves the study areas such as of structure, nutrition and reproduction of specific organisms from each kingdom.

There are 22 experiments on the course including the popular Heart Dissection, Isolation of DNA and the study of an ecosystem. Students are required to keep a record of their practical activities in a hard back journal. A full set of resources is available online to help you in your studies, including notes and videos to help students understand the more difficult concepts.

Exam Structure

The examination at higher and ordinary level is three hours duration. The exam paper is divided into three units

- Section A – Six short questions (answer five) 100 marks
- Section B – Three questions on practical activities (answer two) 60 marks
- Section C – Six long questions (answer four) 240 marks

What careers can I pursue with biology?

Biology is a key subject for lots of STEM careers, particularly in healthcare, medicine and jobs involving plants or animals. The list is quite long and includes: nursing, dentistry, forensic science, psychology, physiotherapy, botany, environmental science, medicine, zoology, geology, oceanography, pharmaceuticals, energy, teaching, science writing, genetics and research

Chemistry

The leaving certificate Chemistry course looks at the world around us and investigates the composition of matter, the laws of chemical change and the relationships between the properties and composition of substances. Everything around us is made from chemicals which provide us with food, clothes and medicines to name but a few.

Higher level requires a greater in-depth understanding of the various topics covered in the course with sound logical understanding required throughout. The same applies to ordinary level but to a lesser degree.

The course comprises of twenty eight experiments allowing the student to develop important skills in laboratory procedures and techniques as well as learning how to work and communicate in a team. The practicals are related to atomic structure, volumetric analysis, organic chemistry, water chemistry and reaction mechanisms.

Exam Structure

The Leaving Cert exam is three hours in duration. Each candidate must answer 8 questions from a total of 11 on the paper. At least two questions from Section A (experimental section) and a maximum of six questions from Section B. Each question is worth 50 marks.

Career opportunities

Careers that involve a knowledge of chemistry are many and varied, e.g. careers in medicine, food science, materials science, engineering (civil, environmental, chemical, electronic and mechanical), agricultural science, pharmacy, nursing, veterinary medicine, biotechnology, forensic science and teaching.

College Entry requirements

Almost all science courses will involve a study of chemistry in some respect so it forms a core element in most courses. For some courses it is compulsory. You have to have a H5 in Chemistry for Veterinary at UCD, Dentistry in TCD and UCC, Medicine in UCC and Human Nutrition/Dietician in DIT and for Pharmacy in all colleges.

If considering studying any Sciences in third level having Chemistry, even at Ordinary level, will be advantageous.

Physics

Physics describes the laws and forces governing natural phenomena which include Optics, Mechanics, Heat, Electricity and Atomic Physics. It offers an option to study particle Physics or Applied Electricity. The subject includes 24 core experiments to develop your technical skills and enhance your understanding of key concepts. It is of key importance in technology and particularly relevant for those interested in specialising in most branches of engineering. In most engineering courses, you will find a high Physics content while it also makes an appearance in some paramedical courses like radiography and even physiotherapy. It is only required for Theoretical Physics in TCD at H2 along with H2 Maths. If you are considering electronics, physics is a great choice for you.

The aims of the syllabus common to both levels are

- to give students an understanding of the fundamental principles of physics and their application to everyday life and technology
- to provide a general education in physics for all students, whether or not they proceed to further studies in physics or not
- to develop the ability to observe, to think logically, and to communicate effectively
- to develop an understanding of the scientific method

Practical Work

Students must follow a course of practical work. The experiments must be carried out by the students and an adequate record must be retained for the period of the course.

Differentiation between Higher level and Ordinary level

There are three main differences between Higher level and Ordinary level:

- structure and content
- depth of treatment
- mathematical treatment

Higher level physics provides a deeper, more quantative treatment of physics.

Topics on the syllabus are mechanics, heat, light, sound,,electricity, modern physics and particle physics.

Exam Structure

Leaving Certificate Physics is assessed by means of one terminal examination paper at each level. Students are required to keep a record of their practical work over the two years of the course. The Leaving Cert Physics examination is three hours in duration.

Career possibilities

Electrician, Optician, Doctor, Dentist, Engineer, Computer Technician and

Programmer

Agricultural Science

Agricultural science is the application of scientific principles to the production of food for humans and animal use. Students who choose agricultural science will study 4 strands. A summary of what will be taught in each strand is given below

1. Scientific practices
    a. Hypothesising
    b. Experimenting
    c. Investigating
    d. Interpreting
    e. Communicating
    f. Evaluating
2. Soil
    a. Formation and classification
    b. Management
    c. Properties of soil
    d. Practical activities and investigations
3. Crops
    a. Plant physiology
    b. Classification and identification
    c. Production
        i. Establishment
        ii. Management
        iii. Harvesting
    d. Use of innovations and biotechnology
    e. Practical activities and investigations
4. Animals
    a. Animal Physiology
    b. Production of food-producing animals
        i. Systems and Enterprises
        ii. Management
        iii. Nutrition
        iv. Breeding
        v. Animal Husbandry
    c. Use of innovations and biotechnology
    d. Practical activities and investigations

In strands, 2,3 and 4 students will look at some of the following issues/themes in each strand like the environment, nutrition, food production, health and safety, technology, genetics, sustainability and policy and economics

Assessment structure

Total marks in Ag Science is 400 marks

Terminal written exam worth 75% of the total marks on offer (300 marks)

The exam is made up of two sections, A and B

A 100 marks, short answer questions with some choice within questions

B 200 marks, 4 long questions to be answered out of 5

Practical coursework (Individual Investigative Study) is worth 25% of the total marks on offer. (100 marks)

Individual Investigative Study coursework is carried out over the two years and incorporates Scientific practice skills from strand 1. Students will be given a brief with a theme in 5th year and will carry out research and conduct investigations in relation to the brief. Students are required to design experiments and carry them out. Students will also develop skills to interpret the data collected and complete a report by April in 6th year

College entry requirements

Agricultural science is now accepted as a laboratory science subject for all third-level colleges although it may not meet the specific subject requirements of a particular course (for example dentistry in TCD).

Career possibilities

Careers in this area include; Greenkeeping, Horticulture, Food Science, Agricultural Advisers, Sports Turf Management, Environmental Science, Forestry, Farming, Marine Science, Careers in Renewable Energy and Teaching.

Art

In 5th year the aim is to refresh, practice and develop all the core art elements, line, tone, texture, colour etc. Observational/Imaginative drawing, Painting, Poster design, Pottery and Lino. Irish Art history is covered in 5th year with at least one history class per week. You try everything out in 5th year, decide what your strengths are, and focus on them in 6th year.

In 6th year we practice for the practical exam which start in January. For the practical exam you pick one of three themes and work in an A3 sketchbook developing your ideas and creating a final craft piece and still life piece over 10 weeks. The Art History course continues with European art history and a gallery visit.

Exam Structure

Practical Workbook Project worth 50%:

You are given 3 themes to choose from and have 10-12 weeks to complete pottery/lino/poster and a Still Life drawing, along with a supporting sketchbook.

Supervised practical exam worth 20%:

This is a new addition to the Leaving Cert Art exam, no further details are available in relation to this at present. (Has been suggested this exam may take place in April/May)

Art History 30%:

A new Art History course will begin in Sept 2020, no further details are available in relation to this at present. (Has been suggested this exam will continue the essay questions format and will take place in June)

Career possibilities

Art is useful for careers in Product Design, Art teaching, Visual Communications, Fashion design, Interior design, Photography and Art Therapy.

College entry requirements

All main art colleges (LSAD, Crawford, and NCAD) require an portfolio of work plus Leaving Certificate points combined. This can be completed in a PLC after your Leaving Certificate or during school but would need to started at the beginning of 5th year at the latest. Art College Portfolio submission dates are usually in February of 6th year. Other Art or Design courses can require smaller portfolios or based only on Leaving Certificate points.

Music

Can you sing or play an instrument? Are you in a choir, trad group or band? Have you heard of music technology? If you enjoy performing either as a soloist or part of a group and if you are good at music then you can get valuable points in your Leaving Certificate. In fact due to the nature of the exam you can go into your written paper having already passed the exam in the practical, which is a nice feeling. The practical examination is worth **50 percent** of the Leaving Certificate Music exam. Leaving Certificate Music continues from Junior Certificate Music. The general aims and overall shape of both are broadly similar. It continues the three activity areas introduced at Junior Certificate level. These three main components are Composing, Listening and Performance.

At Ordinary level, you choose one of the three activities to represent 50 per cent, e.g. Performing 50% Composing 25% Listening 25% or Performing 25% Composing 50% Listening 25% or Performing 25% Composing 25% Listening 50%.

At Higher level, you take additional studies (a Higher level elective in one of the three activities, e.g. Performing 25% Composing 25% Listening 25% + One Higher level elective 25 %.)

So you can get up to 50 percent of the total marks in the musical activity that best suits your talent and have those sorted before you sit the written paper. The ability to read music coming into fifth year is not essential but it is a huge advantage. Reading music and rudiments of music are covered in class at the beginning of fifth year. However, the student should have competence in an instrument or singing. You can do your performance as a soloist or as part of a group. There is a wide variety of instrument choice ranging from guitar, drums, and traditional Irish instruments to piano and voice etc. You can choose your genre of music (classical, traditional, pop, music theatre, jazz or country) to suit your interests and talents. In addition music technology forms part of the Leaving Certificate Music syllabus and it is a very popular option among students who wish to combine music technology as one of their activities with their instrument as a second activity. What does music technology involve? It involves inputting, saving and retrieving one four part or two two-part scores, performing three edits and producing a score version of the music. Music technology is taught in class. Students not only become competent with Sibelius music software programme, but many students use it as part of their practical and students who enjoy song writing and arranging in their own time find it very useful tool to have.

Career possibilities

Music is useful for media work or studies, primary teaching, sound engineering, communications, production, performance and music.

Accountancy, Business and Economics

These subjects take you into the world of business and the Economy. You get an excellent grounding in business principles and an understanding of the current state of the world. None of these are needed to get a place in a business course in college but needless to say they would be very useful and give you some idea as to whether you would like to go deeper into these subjects, go into management or run your own business. Let's look at them in some detail:

Accountancy

The Accounting course involves the preparation, recording, presentation and analysis of financial information (It is not a Maths subject and although those who enjoy maths will enjoy financial accounts). This subject offers a conscientious student the real possibility of high grades. Those who enjoyed the Bookkeeping at junior cert have a particular interest in the subject. Being able to think logically, analyse skilfully and present information concisely is important. The exam paper is divided into three sections, and students have 3 hours to complete it. Topics covered as follows:

Q1 (Financial Accounting)

Company Accounts, departmental accounts and Sole Trader. (Based on trading P&L at junior cert)

Q2/Q3/Q4 (Financial Accounting)

Creditors Control Accounts, Revaluation of Fixed Assets, Depreciation of Fixed Assets, Farm Accounts, Tabular Statements, Service Firms, Correction of Errors, Cash Flow Statements, Published Accounts.

Q5 (Financial Accounting)

Interpretation of Accounts (ratios at JL level)

Q6/Q7 (Financial Accounting)

Cash Flow Statements, Incomplete Records Type 1 and 2, Tabular Statements, Club Accounts, Service Firms.

Q8 and Q9 (Management Accounting)

Costing and Budgeting topics should be covered.

Career opportunities: Accountancy provides a valuable foundation for all business functions and many top executives have an accountancy background. Most chief executive officers of public limited companies have some sort of accountancy qualification. Career pathways might include accountancy, actuarial studies, marketing, business or finance. It would also be an important subject choice for those thinking of starting their own business

Business

Business is part of all aspects of our day-to-day personal and working lives, from management of cashflow to buying goods from retailers. Students who undertake this subject

will have a genuine interest in business and usually take the subject to third level education. The exam last 3 hours and carries a total of 400 marks. The course is divided into 7 units each unit covers a different aspect of business.

The syllabus is broken down into three sections: A, B, and C.

Section A People in Business

(Unit 1) Introduction to people in business People and their relationships in business Conflicting interests and how they are resolved

Section B Enterprise

(Unit 2) Enterprise Introduction and definition of enterprise Entrepreneurs and enterprise skills

(Unit 3) Managing 1 Introduction and definition of management, Managers and management skills and Management activities

(Unit 4) Managing 2 Household and business manager, Human resource management, Changing role of management and Monitoring the business

(Unit 5) Business in action Identifying opportunities, Marketing, Getting started and business Expansion

Section C Environment

(Unit 6) Domestic environment Categories of industry (primary, secondary, tertiary) Types of business organisation (sole trader, LTD,PLC..) Community development, Business and the economy, Government and business Social responsibilities of business

Unit 7) International environment, Introduction to the international trading environment, European Union and International business

Career opportunities: business is useful for a wide range of careers including business management, Entrepreneurship, advertising, marketing, banking, finance, clerical and administration, Law, sales, retail, transport and logistics.

Economics

Economics is all around us and is relevant to everyone's daily lives. It is a 'living' subject that is constantly changing. If you are interested in questioning government policies or understanding what causes economic growth this is the subject for you. Economics students should ideally have an interest in current affairs, politics and topical issues like housing crisis, water charges, Brexit, Donald trump's policies etc. The written exam can be taken at both higher and ordinary level and is worth 80%. A Research study is completed in 6th year for the other 20%.. The new Leaving certificate economics syllabus will be examined for the first time in 2021 and is divided into 5 strands.

STRAND 1: WHAT IS ECONOMICS ABOUT?

1.1 Economics as a way of thinking

1.2 The economic concepts of scarcity and choice

1.3 Economic, social and environmental sustainability

STRAND 2: HOW ARE ECONOMIC DECISIONS MADE?

2.1 The market economy

2.2 The consumer

2.3 The firm

2.4 Government intervention in the market

STRAND 3: WHAT CAN MARKETS DO?

3.1 Market structures

3.2 The labour market

3.3 Market failure

STRAND 4: WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POLICY AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE?

4.1 National income

4.2 Fiscal policy and the budget framework

4.3 Employment and unemployment

4.4 Monetary policy and the price level

4.5 Financial sector

STRAND 5: HOW IS THE ECONOMY INFLUENCED BY INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS? 5.1 Economic growth and development

5.2 Globalisation

5.3 International trade and competitiveness

Career opportunities: Economics provides students with a learning foundation for a wide range of careers in business, economics, finance, marketing, insurance, politics, journalism, current affairs, enterprise and management. The Leaving Cert economics programme can be an advantage for students considering third level courses with an economics element to course content

Social and Scientific (Home Economics)

The study of Home Economics offers students a wide range of learning experiences that will enable them to manage any aspects of their lives. Home Economics as a subject is not gender specific, combining Home management with Food science and nutrition, Microbiology, Consumer studies, sociology and housing to develop modern life skills. As result there is some overlap with other subjects such as Biology, Business and Agricultural Science.

Subject Content

The syllabus consists of one Core area

1. Food Studies 45%	Nutrients, Food Science, Food commodities, Food processing, Microbiology, Preservation, Additives, Food Labelling, HACCP, Sensory analysis, Food Law, The Irish Diet, Special diets
2. Resource Management and Consumer Studies 25%	Budgets, Saving options, Mortgages, Insurance, Pensions
3. Social Studies 10%	Family Law, Children, Marriage, The Elderly, People with Special Needs

Electives

The Electives are extensions of the content contained in the Core Areas and provide students with the opportunity to study certain topics in more depth. Students opt for **one** Elective area only. In Heywood Community School we tend to choose **Elective 1 or 2.**

1. Home Design and Management	20%
2. Social Studies	20%
3. Textiles Fashion and Design	20%

Mandatory Practical Coursework- 20%

Home Economics is an applied subject, combining theory with practical skills. Twenty per cent of the marks are for a coursework journal completed within normal class time in Fifth year. These coursework food studies assignments have been reduced to four assignments in 2016. This includes four practical cookery sessions which attendance is mandatory for in order to complete the four journal write up. The coursework is submitted in October of sixth year, prior to the written examination. Students tend to perform very well with this part of the examination. Extensive research on a topic as well as evidence of a practical application clearly documented can earn students a high grade and ultimately improve their Home Economics grade overall.

Exam Paper structure- 80%

Section A	**60 marks**	**12 questions** taken from the Core area of the course. Students are awarded marks for their best **10 questions**. Each question is awarded **6 marks**.
Section B	**180 Marks**	**5 Questions**- Students must answer **Question 1** (Food Science and Nutrition) and any other **2 questions.**
Section C	**80 Marks**	Students answer **2 questions** on the chosen elective studied in class

It would be advisable for students opting for Leaving Certificate Home Economics to have completed the Junior Certificate course or have studied it as a module subject in Transition Year. Those students who opt for Transition Year will be given an introduction to the Food Science and Nutrition section.

Much of the course is theory based- students are often under the illusion that Home Economics involves a lot of culinary practical skills and find it quite a shock when they realise even the practical section demands research and presentation, with only four practical cookery sessions involved across the 2 year programme (as part of the Journal requirements).

It is a wide and demanding course where interested students must be willing to learn and undertake quite a substantial theoretical subject. There is both an Honours and Ordinary level within the subject. Students can opt to take the written exam at higher or Ordinary level, however the coursework journal is at a common level and is corrected as such.

Career Opportunities- Many students who have studied Home Economics at senior cycle have proceeded to further study in the related fields of Home Economics Teacher Education, Food Science and health, Nutritional Science, Food Technology, Biotechnology and Dietetics to mention but a few.

Construction Studies

The changing face of Construction Studies in the 21st century

The student who commences post-primary education this year (2020) will be sitting their leaving cert in 2028. One thing is certain, this will be a different time from today and teachers are tasked with the responsibility of preparing such students to active, ethical and creative living in these not so distant times. Constructions Studies as a subject has a significant contribution to make preparing students for active citizenship in the future. Major themes emerge as important drivers in the changing nature of Construction Studies. These include

- Climate change
- Fossil fuel depletion
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Transition to a low carbon energy future

Factors which shape the changing nature of Construction Studies – Legislation ***Background*** **-** The EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EFPB) recast 2013, has been transposed into Irish Law from 2006 onwards, and contains a range of provisions to improve the energy performance of new and existing buildings.

Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings

All EU member states are obliged to ensure that from 31st December 2020, all new buildings, including dwelling houses, will comply with the new Nearly Zero Energy Buildings Standards. This effectively means that all new buildings will generate little or no Carbon Dioxide (CO_2).

The importance of the indoor environment

For the first time in history, many people spend more than 90% of their times indoors and the link between a pleasant indoor environment and general wellbeing is being studied and understood. The quality of the indoor environment is becoming increasingly important for the general health of everybody. As work and recreation are increasingly indoor activities, the importance of linking dwelling, both visually and physically, to the external natural environment is an important design consideration. Designing buildings that facilitate the penetration of both daylight and sunlight into the buildings is a major theme in contemporary design.

Third Level Requirements

This subject is not an essential requirement for any course in the CAO system

Career Possibilities

Studying Construction studies would be helpful for careers such as Architecture, Structural Engineering, Quantity Surveyor, Civil Engineering, Builder, Town Planner, Carpenter/Joiner, Furniture maker, Plumber, Electrician, Interior Designer.

Subject content

Exam Structure

The Leaving Certificate Construction Studies is a two year course consisting of:

Part 1 - A Theory paper in June of final year.

Part 2 - A day practical examination in May of final year.

Part 3 - A project, submitted in April of final year.

The three parts are examined at O.L. and H.L.

Marking Scheme

H.L. - Total marks for all three parts – 600 marks (100%)

O.L. - Total marks for all three parts – 500 marks (100%)

Part 1 - The Theory Paper H.L. – 300 marks (50%). A 3 hour paper consisting of ten questions you must answer Q1. (a compulsory drawing question) and four other questions. All questions carry equal marks (60 marks each). There may two or three parts to each question, with the exception of Q10. which requires you to answer the first part **OR** the second part.

Part 1 - The Theory Paper O.L. – 200 marks (40%). A 2.5 hour paper consisting of nine questions you must answer Q1. (a compulsory drawing question) and three other questions. All questions carry equal marks (50 marks each).

Note: Parts 2 and 3 are common to H.L. and O.L.

Part 2 – Day practical Examination – 150 marks (worth 25% to H.L. students and 30% to O.L. students). This consists of a four hour practical examination, usually the first week in May of your final year.

Part 3 – A Project (An Artefact and a Folio). – 150 marks (worth 25% to H.L. students and 30% to O.L. students). May be done at any stage over the two years but usually left until final year as students need a certain level of knowledge to help them make more informed decisions.

Part 1 - The Theory Paper O.L. – 200 marks (40%). A 2.5 hour paper consisting of nine questions you must answer Q1. (a compulsory drawing question) and three other questions. All questions carry equal marks (50 marks each).

Note: Parts 2 and 3 are common to H.L. and O.L.

Part 2 – Day practical Examination – 150 marks (worth 25% to H.L. students and 30% to O.L. students). This consists of a four hour practical examination, usually the first week in May of your final year.

Part 3 – A Project (An Artefact and a Folio). – 150 marks (worth 25% to H.L. students and 30% to O.L. students). May be done at any stage over the two years but usually left until final year as students need a certain level of knowledge to help them make more informed decisions.

Design and Communication Graphics (DCG)

The study of DCG at Leaving Certificate level aims to:

- Develop the cognitive and practical skills associated with communication graphics, problem solving and critical thinking.
- Develop the capacity and ability of students in the area of visio-spatial reasoning.
- Provide a learning environment where students can plan, organise and present appropriate design solutions using a variety of skills, techniques and media.
- Provide a basis for lifelong learning.
- Develop an appreciation for, and understanding of, aesthetic principles and their importance in design and the human environment.
- Stimulates the students creative imagination through developing their visual and spatial abilities.

Career Possibilities

DCG is a core element of many 3rd level options including Engineering, Construction, Architecture, Product Design, Visual Communications, Graphic Design and knowledge of this subject will greatly enhance a student's ability in any 3rd level practical based programme. All apprenticeships include the study of detailed technical drawings.

Subject Content: the subject consists of:

Part 1	Plane and Descriptive Geometry	• Projection Systems • Conic Sections • Descriptive Geometry • Intersection and Developments
Part 2	Communication of Design	• Freehand Sketching • Technical (board) drawing • Computer aided Drawing with the use of Solidworks.
Part 3	Applied Graphics	• Dynamic Mechanisms • Structural Forms • Geologic Geometry • Surface Geometry • Assemblies

Exam Structure

Part 1- Leaving Certificate 3 hour exam (60%)

Section A	Short questions from core topics. Given 4 questions - answer any 3.
Section B	Drawing questions from core topics. Given 3 questions - answer any 2.
Section C	Applied Graphics questions. Given 5 key areas - answer any 2. 1. Dynamic Mechanisms 2. Structural Forms 3. Geologic Geometry

	4. Surface Geometry 5. Assemblies

Part 2 - Assignment (40%). September to January of 6th year.

A design brief is given on an existing product. Examples of these from previous years are perfume bottles, security cameras, gaming headsets and dashcams.

Part A	Existing Artefacts	Design Research. Design Feature Comparison. Freehand Graphical Presentation.
	SolidWorks	Generate a computer model of an existing design comprising of between 5 and 10 parts. . Produce orthographic, exploded and photorealistic views.
Part B	Design Modification New Concept Design	Graphically explore a new modified design or an entirely new concept. Justify and present your solution.
	SolidWorks	Generate a computer model of your new design. Produce orthographic, exploded and photorealistic views.

Engineering

This subject follows up from Junior Certificate Metalwork and is structured in a similar way. It involves the study of more advanced theory and further development of practical skills using hand tools and machines. Students also develop their design and planning skills through project work. Each year students are required to study some aspect of modern technology such as robotics or 3 dimensional printing which keeps the subject up to date with changes in technology.

Exam details:

Higher Level

Theory paper including special topic	
(Examined in June)	50%
Design and make project	
(completed between November and April of 6th year)	25%
Day practical exam Common to both HL and OL	
(A Six hour exam held in Mid May)	25%

Ordinary Level

Theory Examination	40%
Project	30%
Day Practical exam, common to HL and OL	30%

Careers possibilities

Engineering can be seen as an excellent base for students who wish to peruse careers in:

- Environmental Engineering
- Biomedical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Architecture
- Mechanic and Fitter Apprentices
- Design

Geography

This is the study of the interrelationships between human activities and the physical environment. Geography is the study of people, their environment, and the interaction between the two. The course follows from Junior Cert Geography, and covers very similar topics (such as rocks, soils, oceans, population movements, map-reading, and economic activities) in a lot more detail. The course includes: Patterns and Processes in the Physical Environment, Regional geography, Geographical investigation . You will have to complete a Field Study worth 20% as part of your exam. Patterns and processes in the Human Environment and for Higher level, Geoecology.

The texts required in 5th Year September to May is Todays World 1 which covers the Physical , Regional and OS work. Between May in 5th Year and December in 6th Year – Today's World 3 is the required text . Fieldwork is now done in May in 5th Year.

Notes are checked regularly in class and when collected .When absent students are expected to get work missed and to ensure space is left in the hardback to get work done .The key tests are Christmas and Summer . Please note that Geoecology is for Higher level students only . For both levels the workload is considerable and will require ongoing learning and revision .There are 109 topics on the syllabus and the vast majority of these have appeared on the state papers since 2006 . An OL student will answer a Section 1 with 12 short questions and then 3 questions on Physical , 3 questions on Regional and 3 questions on Human . The HL student will answer questions on the same topic plus 1 question out of 3 on Geoecology . The subject demands that all students are prepared to work consistently to achieve high grades . The workload as you can see is enormous but with a positive attitude to work , plenty of ambition and a willingness to work diligently and at times independently , success can be achieved .

Exam structure

The exam consists of two assessment components

Written examination (80%)

Geographical Investigation report (20%)

History

History looks at the world of politics, economics, religion and philosophy and is a very interesting subject. It aims to record and analyse things which have happened in the past, with an emphasis on both how and why events occurred. Studying history helps students to become critical thinkers. Students are encouraged to consider the validity of different interpretations of evidence to develop a more balanced and grounded judgement. Research skills include consulting a wide variety of sources (such as maps, public records, political cartoons and memoirs).

A total of four topics will be covered at Leaving Cert level, two from World History such as Dictatorship and Democracy and two from Irish History such as Sovereignty and Partition. Students will also complete a Research Study Report (RSR) on any topic/subject of their own choosing. This is worth 20% of their Leaving Cert exam and is completed by Easter of 6th year. Higher and Ordinary level students follow an identical course with a different emphasis in the way questions are asked on exam papers.

Exam structure

Research study report	20%
Written examination	80%

The exam will last 2 hours 50 minutes and students will answer a documents based study worth 20% as well as three other questions (one from each topic studied). Students will have 5 class periods per week.

Career possibilities

An interest in and knowledge of history are relevant to any career related to Current Affairs - Journalism, Local and National Radio and TV. History is valuable as a background to studies in Law, Town Planning, Architecture, Politics, Economics, Sociology, Art, Museum and Library work.

Religious Education

Leaving Cert Religion is a relatively new subject and the number of students taking it is growing. Assessment involves a written coursework project and an end exam. One of the nice things about leaving cert Religion is the amount of choice given in the course and exam.

Religion Course Content

The Search for Meaning and Values

Christianity

Exam Structure

Coursework (20%) is an extended essay on a given topic. This part is completed in journal form and submitted before you sit the formal examination. It is an ideal opportunity for students to research and echos the style of coursework that would be expected at third level. It is therefore a great experience in preparing for university.

Exam (80%)

Unit One: which must be done by all students: The Search for Meaning and Values?

Unit Two Pick any two topics from:

1. Christianity: origins and contemporary expressions

2. World Religions

3. Moral Decision Making

Unit three is an optional section where you specializ e in one area form a choice of six.

¨ The Bible: literature and sacred text

¨ Religion: the Irish experience

¨ Religion and science

♦ Religion and gender

♦ Issues of justice and peace

♦ Worship, prayer and ritual

Leaving Cert Vocational Programme (LCVP)

There are two link modules: Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education. They are taught in a one hour class a week and are assessed by means of a portfolio (60%) and an end of year exam (40%) that takes place in May of 6th year. The portfolio has six items. Curriculum Vitae, Career Investigation, Summary Report, Enterprise/Action Plan, and two of Diary of Work Experience, Enterprise Report, Report "My Own Place" or Recorded Interview.

To qualify you must be doing 5 leaving cert subjects including English and Irish (unless exempt) and a 3rd language. The school will put on a non-exam class in a 3rd language (either French or German) to meet the third language requirements. This subject will not meet any third level course requirements. The 5 subjects must also include one of the following combinations of vocational subjects:

Vocational Subject Groupings(VSGs)

· Construction Studies; Engineering; Design and Communication Graphics (DCG) ;-Any 2

· Physics and Construction studies or Engineering or Technology or DCG

· Agricultural Science and Construction Studies or Engineering or Technology or Design & Communication Graphics

· Agricultural Science and Chemistry or Physics or Physics/Chemistry

· Home Economics; Agricultural Science; Biology -Any Two

· Home Economics and Art with design or Art with Craft

· Accounting; Business; Economics -Any two

· Physics and Chemistry

· Biology and Chemistry or Physics or Physics/Chemistry

· Biology and Agricultural Science

· Art - Design Option or Craft Option and Design & Communication Graphics

· Engineering or Construction Studies or Design & Communication Graphics and Accounting or Business or Economics

· Home Economics and Accounting or Business or Economics

· Agricultural Science and Accounting or Business or Economics

· Art Design or Craftwork Option and Accounting or Business or Economics

· Music and Accounting or Business or Economics

Work Experience

A requirement of the course is that students are encouraged to plan, or organise and engage in a work experience/shadowing placement. Work Experience/Work Shadowing is scheduled for three to five days. The aim of the work experience/work shadowing is for students to acquire factual knowledge about the world of work generally, and to acquire and apply skills and knowledge by direct experience in a particular workplace. Also, work experience/work shadowing enables students to see more clearly, connections between other modules and the world of work, and to develop capabilities to cope with, and solve problems, in an unfamiliar environment.

Career Investigation

The ability to research and plan a career is an essential part of the toolkit of today's worker, who needs to continuously respond and adapt to a rapidly changing working environment. Students too, in preparing for life after school, need to know how to access information about career opportunities and be able to evaluate the vocational options open to them.

LCVP students who engage in a career investigation, in conjunction with other guidance and counselling activities in the school, can learn important skills in career research and planning, and improve their communicative and decision making skills.

The career investigation is a short summary of the information gathered and the insights gained by a student during the course of active research into a chosen career. This portfolio item is an outcome of Unit 3 of the Link Modules, Preparation for the World of Work. In this unit students are encouraged and facilitated to actively investigate careers related to their aptitudes, interests and choice of Leaving Certificate subjects, with particular reference to their selected vocational subjects.

Interaction: **In developing the skills of research, students should refer to interaction with an adult other than teachers in a relevant out of class learning experience.**

Summary Report

A summary report is a short written communication which may have a variety of purposes such as:

· to brief the reader on the details of a particular event

· to analyse a particular issue, draw conclusions and make recommendations

· to convince the reader of the importance of taking a particular course of action.

The ability to present information in a manner that is concise, logical and easy to read is an important skill – one that is valued in education, business and in the community. The summary report provides LCVP students with an opportunity to gain proficiency in this form of writing.

The ability to plan effectively is a skill which can be of great practical value to students during their time at school, in their future studies, and in the world of work. By encouraging LCVP students to draw up plans for Link Module activities, teachers can hep them to make informed decisions based on careful research and analysis.

Enterprise/Action Plan

The Enterprise/Action Plan is a plan for an enterprising activity which a student (or group) intends to organise, or an action which a student (or group) intends to take.

The plan should be related to one or more of the learning outcomes of the Link Modules

Examples of enterprise/action plans include:

A plan for a local area investigation

A plan for a visit to an enterprise

A plan for a careers' information evening

A plan for a fundraising event

A plan for a mini-enterprise

A plan for learning a new skill

A plan for organising a work placement

Preparation for Working Life programme (PWL)

•The PWL is compulsory for all 5th year students in Heywood.

•Those who qualify for LCVP will by default be doing it but those who don't will be given the opportunity to avail of the positive benefits of it.

•It's a one year programme covering the Link Module 1 of the LCVP programme.

•Its aim is to prepare students for the world of work regardless of whether they go to college or not.

•Even students who go to college will at some point end up in the work place.

•At the end of 5th year /beginning of 6th year the year group will be divided into those who qualify for LCVP and those who don't.

•Those who qualify will follow Link Module 2 of the LCVP programme.

•Those who don't will have a study period in 6th year.

PWL programme (*Link Module 1 of LCVP)

•*Introduction to Working Life

•*Job seeking skills

•*CV (this is a live document and will be for the rest of your life)

•*A personal profile identifying your strengths and weaknesses.

•*Career Investigation (investigating your career choice)

•*Enterprise /Action plan (you plan and organise an event)

•*Summary Report of a visit out to a company or organisation.

•*One week Work experience.

•*Interview preparation.

Summary

Hopefully after reading this booklet, you are ready to take the next step and choose which senior cycle programme you wish to pursue. Below is a summary of the selection process:

Senior Cycle Options

Students in 3rd year can opt for 1 of the following:

a) TY

b) Established Leaving Cert (with LCVP)

You must **choose 4 subjects in addition to English, Irish and Maths.**

Remember to consider the LCVP combinations

Students in TYcan opt for the Established Leaving Cert (with LCVP)

You must **choose 4 subjects in addition to English,Irish and Maths**

Remember to consider the LCVP combinations

All students in 5th year must follow the PWL programme which will help them prepare for the world of work.

Students in 6th year will follow the LCVP if they qualify while those who don't will have a study period.

Useful Websites and Email Addresses

- www.qualifax.ie
  - Database of all Post Leaving Cert and 3rd level courses in Ireland
- www.careersportal.com
  - Excellent careers website featuring videos of people currently working in selected careers
- nreddington@heywood.ie
  - Contact for any simple queries you may have

Leaving Certificate Points System

- Points are awarded based on the **highest 6 grades**
- Maximum points = 625*
  (*Only students who take Higher Level Maths will be eligible to achieve 625 points)

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

Good luck to all our students in the decision making process