

The New Junior Cycle

All students are now doing the New Junior Cycle and there are quite a few differences from the Junior Certificate that we are all familiar with.

The only subjects that are available at Honours and Pass level are Irish, English and Maths. All other subjects are common level.

The Junior Cycle uses a dual approach to assessment including classroom-based assessments and a final state examination. At the end of the Junior Cycle students will receive a Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) which shows the results of the different assessments over the three years.

Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs): There will be two CBAs for each subject, the first one in second year and the second one in third year. These could range from project tasks, oral language tasks and investigations, to practical or designing and making tasks, field studies and artistic performances. These will be done by the class teacher in normal class times.

The results of CBAs will be reported using the following descriptors:

Exceptional	Above Expectations
In Line with Expectations	Yet to Meet Expectations

Assessment Tasks (AT) are completed by students in third year. The written Assessment Task will detail what they have learned and the skills they have developed, and it will account for at least 10% of the overall mark for the final examination.

Final State Examination/Subjects: At the end of third year, students will sit their final state exams in June which will account for up to 90% of their State Exam Commission Grade. All the exams involve one 2 hour exam.

The grades for the final examinations will be as follows:

Grade	Percentage
Distinction	90 – 100%
Higher Merit	75 – 89%
Merit	55 – 74%
Achieved	40 – 54%
Partially Achieved	20 – 39%
Not Graded	0 – 19%

Short Courses are offered across two or three years of the junior cycle. The short courses on offer in St. Brogan's College include Computer Science, SPHE and PE. The assessment for these involves one classroom-based assessment only.

Other Learning Experiences can be recorded on the JCPA. These could include student engagement in extracurricular activities such as being a member of the student council, clubs and societies, participation in school sports, debating, drama, excursions or any other experience in school.

Subjects at Junior Cycle

There are three different categories of subject in Junior Cycle

1. Core Subjects
2. Core Subjects – Not examined
3. Short Courses
4. Optional Subjects

Core Subjects – these are the subjects that all students must study

1. Irish *
2. English
3. Maths
4. Science
5. History

*If students have been granted a formal Department of Education and Science Irish Exemption they will be getting extra support during Irish time. We will require parents to provide the school with a copy of the Certificate of Exemption if you have not already done so.

Core Subjects (not examined) – these are the subjects that all students study but are not examined for the Junior Cycle

1. CSPE – Civic Social and Political Education
2. Religious Education

While these subjects are on students who are interested may choose to study Polish for the Junior Cycle instead. These students can then go on to do Polish for the Leaving Certificate.

Short Courses**

1. Computer Studies
2. SPHE
3. PE

** Short courses are not examined using an exam at Junior Cycle but students complete assignments and successful completion of the courses is formally recognised on the new Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement Certificate

Optional Subjects

Students must choose from the following subject options.

Spanish	French
Geography	Home Economics
Technical Graphics	Art
Music	Woodwork
Metalwork	Business Studies

Choosing Subjects—Factors to be considered

1. Flexibility

The first factor to be taken into consideration is that optional subjects can be changed. In the enclosed form you are indicating your preference for subjects. You should give serious consideration to what subjects you wish to study but we also understand that in September you may find that a subject is not what you thought and there will be flexibility to change for the first 6-8 weeks.

2. Interests

What do I like? If you like something, you are more likely to work at it and enjoy it. Therefore, choose the subjects you like or think you will like. There is no point choosing a subject because you believe it will get you a job or because you believe it is easy. Similarly, there is no point avoiding a subject just because you heard somewhere that it will be difficult. Remember, what one person considers easy, another considers difficult and vice versa!

3. Be open to new subjects

Don't be afraid to try a new subject if you feel you would like it. Just because you have never done it doesn't mean you won't like it. In fact, you may love it and be very good at it.

4. Ability/Aptitude:

What am I good at? Look at what you are good at. Are you interested in reading? Do you enjoy writing? Do you like working with wood? Are you familiar with metalwork already? Are you musical? Do you enjoy sewing, cooking etc? Do you like learning languages? Do languages come easy to you? Are you good at Art? Are you artistically minded?

5. Future Career

It is very difficult to decide what career a person would like at 12 years of age. However, 12-year olds know what they don't like and you don't want to end up working in a job doing something you don't like. The key is to keep your options open.

These five factors need to be considered when choosing subjects. Remember that at the end of 3rd Year you choose Leaving Certificate subjects which gives you a chance to start again.

If you are still unsure of what to choose contact the school on 0238841120 and make an appointment to meet the Principal/Deputy Principal/ Guidance Counsellor

Commonly asked Questions

If I don't like a subject in September, can I change?

Yes, but we suggest that you change within the first 6-8 weeks. This has given you a chance to experience one subject while at the same time not missing too much from another.

If I didn't do a subject at Junior Cycle, can I take it up at Senior Cycle?

There is no simple answer to this.

A. In the case of a lot of subjects, the answer is Yes. You may be a little behind compared to some of the other students but with a little extra effort by an interested student, the subject is very achievable.

B. In the case of other subjects, the answer is less clear-cut. It very much depends on a student's personal skills. E.g. a someone with a flair for/prior knowledge of Art, Music, Metal work or Woodwork and who didn't choose the subject in Junior Cert may be comfortably able to take it on at Leaving Certificate.

C. In the case of some other subjects, the answer is probably no. E.g. it would be very difficult to pick up Spanish or French in Leaving Certificate never having studied it before.

Where do Subjects Lead to at Leaving Certificate

Junior Cycle	Leaving Certificate
Irish	Irish
English	English
Maths	Maths
The subjects below translate directly into Leaving Certificate Subjects	
French	French
Spanish	Spanish
History	History
Geography	Geography
Music	Music
Art	Art
Physical Education (PE)	Physical Education (PE)
The following subjects change name but essentially remain the same, building on what has been learned in Junior Cycle	
Home Economics	Home Economics – Scientific and Social
Woodwork	Construction Studies
Metalwork	Engineering
Technical Graphics	Design and Communication Graphics (DCG)
The following subjects divide into various different subjects allowing students to specialize	
Business	Accounting Business
Science	Biology Chemistry Physics Agricultural Science

Woodwork

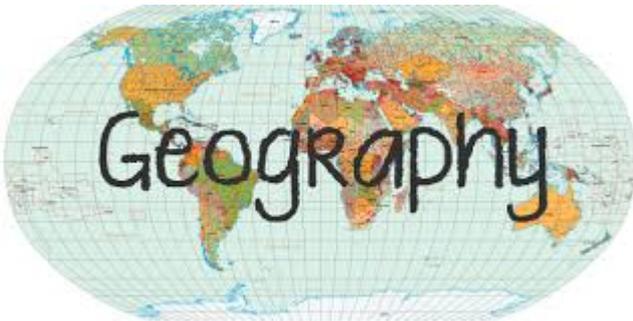


In Woodwork you will learn to design small projects and the skills required to use tools and equipment to make your designs.

Main sections:

1. Examine trees & the environment
2. Sketching
3. Design Project
4. Practical work –completing projects

Geography



Geography is the study of people and their relationships with their environment. It is concerned with helping to develop an understanding of the physical, social and economic processes which shape the environment. It is a subject that will benefit students all of their lives and awakens an interest and understanding of everything happening around us.

What will you study?

1. Physical Geography – earthquakes/volcanoes, rivers, seas etc.
2. Social Geography – people and how they interact with the world.
3. Economic Activity – How we make money using the world around us.

Examination: combination of a written exam and class based assessments over the three years.

Home Economics



This is about equipping young people in certain important skills for living as individuals and of establishing and developing a stable environment for their families.

What do you study?

1. Food Studies/Culinary skills
2. Consumer Studies
3. Social and Health Studies
4. Resource management and
5. Textiles Skills

Examination: 50% practical (cooking)50% written, Class based assessments are based on Craftwork.

Music



Junior Certificate Music, you will sing and perhaps learn to play an instrument. You will listen to many types of music such as pop, classical and traditional Irish music. You will also start composing.

What will you study?

1. Learn about many types of music
2. How to read and write music
3. How to sing songs
4. Play an instrument.
5. Parts in performances/choir etc.

Examination: - Variety of practical and theory based assessment methods as well as class bases assessments.

Metalwork



In Metalwork you will learn how to work with metal and assemble different parts. Plastics and wood are also investigated.

What will you learn?

1. examine properties of metal/wood/plastics
2. examine how things work
3. freehand sketching
4. Creating and assembling projects
5. learn about basic electronic components

Technical Graphics/Drawing



In Technical Graphics you will learn how to represent 3-D objects on paper and computer.

What will you study?

1. How to do drawings of everyday items
2. 3D Visualisation
3. Architectural drawing
4. Sketching, colouring and shading of objects
5. Cardboard / paper models of items

Examination: Written Exam: 100% (3 hours). 2 Sections: short theory questions and long theory & drawing questions.

Art

This involves becoming familiar with and applying the elements of art and principles of design, and the knowledge and skills associated with these processes.



What will you do?

It involves practical work

1. Design
2. Drawing,
3. Painting
4. Working with clay etc.
5. Computer work
6. Advertising

Examination: combination of a written exam and class based assessments over the three years.

Business

Business studies encourages students to



1. develop an appreciation of how their lives are shaped by economic and social factors.
2. make informed decisions and better manage their personal financial resources
3. improve their knowledge and understanding of good business practice
4. with an insight and positive attitude to entrepreneurship, demonstrating how it can improve our goods, services and institutions.
5. develop skills for learning, skills for work and skills

for life.

6. development of analytical and critical thinking skills, encouraging students to be problem solvers.

Examination: combination of a written exam and class based assessments over the three years.

Modern Foreign Languages

Everyone can benefit from studying a foreign language. Ireland does not produce enough language graduates. Taking a foreign language enhances career opportunities in a global economy.

Language requirements for third level colleges vary depending on the college and the course. A third language is an entry requirement for **some** courses in NUI colleges. A third language is a language other than Irish and English presented at Leaving Cert level eg French, Spanish, Polish etc.

NUI colleges include UCC, UCD, NUI Galway, Maynooth University also Royal College of Surgeons (RCSI), St Angelas College, Sligo and National College of Art & Design (NCAD).

Science, Nursing and Engineering degree programmes offered in NUI Universities **do not** require a third language.

Note: Those with an official Dept Education & Science Exemption from Irish may be exempt from language requirements at third level.

We offer three foreign languages:

French



French students will learn and become competent in the French language as well as becoming familiar with the culture. The emphasis is on the 4 key skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Spanish



Spanish students will learn and become competent in the Spanish language as well as becoming familiar with the culture. The emphasis is on the 4 key skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Polish



Polish students will learn and become competent in the Polish language as well as becoming familiar with the culture. The emphasis is on the 4 key skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Polish in Junior Cycle is offered opposite Religion and CSPE as a short course. It will be possible then to go on to study Polish for the Leaving Certificate.