

Cork Education and Training Board

St. Brogan's College

Kilbrogan, Bandon, Co. Cork.

Principal: Helen Cadogan, B.Comm., GDE (B), M.Sc.

Deputy-Principal: Caroline Corrigan, B.A. H. Dip.



Coláiste Bhrógáin Naofa

Cill Bhrógáin, Droichead na Bannan

Príomhoide: Eilín Ní Cheadagáin, B. Comm., M.Sc.

↳-Phríomhoide: Cearailín Uí Chorrágáin, B.A. H. Dip.

31st March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Hope you are all safe and well. Firstly, I know a lot of third years have been listening to all the misinformation on social media. The Department of Education are saying that they expect the Junior and Leaving Cert exams to go ahead as normal. All third years, therefore, need to be preparing for the junior cert exams as normal while they are not in school.

As you know we had a meeting planned to discuss options for transition year and Leaving cert just before the schools had to close. We must now do this process online so this letter will explain everything.

There are a number of presentations which we had prepared for the night which are available on this web page: <http://www.sbc.ie/third-year-options/>. We would ask you to go through these presentations carefully as they provide very important and detailed information.

In St. Brogan's College transition year is compulsory except for a small number of students who decide that they do not wish to complete the Leaving Certificate but want to do the Leaving Certificate Applied Course.

Students studying the Leaving Certificate Applied cannot apply through the CAO system for college but can go on to do apprenticeships, Darrara College, any of the Post Leaving Certificate courses such as in the College of Commerce and Kinsale College of further Education or go straight to the world of work. If students are unsure about doing the Leaving Certificate Applied, we recommend that they complete Transition Year and then they can choose again between the Leaving Certificate and the Leaving Certificate Applied. There are limited places in Leaving Certificate Applied and students who have already completed Transition Year get preference. If we are oversubscribed the school will decide on who can or cannot go straight from third year into Leaving Certificate Applied. If you have a third year interested in going straight into the Leaving Certificate Applied then you need to email this intention to admin@sbci.ie and not complete the options process.

In Transition Year all our students get to try out every subject for 3-4 weeks up until Christmas. After that they choose which subjects, they wish to continue with and we begin covering the leaving certificate course. We are asking students about their choice of subjects now so we can create what are called the subject bands i.e. decide for example that French is on at the same time as Geography, History and Art. If after trying out the subjects until Christmas students change their minds they can change subjects within the bands. In order to do this, students must decide on their preference of subjects and we will then feed this into a computer programme which will come out with the best structure to suit the majority of students. Normally we would send out a sheet looking for preferences but this year you will be doing it online.

If you click on this link you will see a short video on how to do enter the subject choices on line: <https://vsware.wistia.com/medias/kr62eqh02z>.

When choosing subjects it is very important to choose the subject you really want or need first and then work your way down in order of preference. You must enter five subjects, but you will only get to do four. You enter the fifth subject in case you do not get one of your four main choices.

You will all of course be doing Irish (unless you have an exemption), English and Maths. In addition, as non-exam subjects you will do PE and Religion. After that you do four more subjects which is where the options come in.

There is a new subject on offer this year. We will be offering the new Leaving Certificate Physical Education subject this year. This is a new subject across the country and counts for points just like any other Leaving Certificate Subject. It is important that students understand that this is not just playing sport in the PE hall but contains a lot of theory and is as difficult as any other Leaving Certificate Subject. All students will be offered a double class of PE just as before whether you are doing PE as a Leaving Certificate subject or not and if you choose to do PE as a leaving certificate subject you will have classes when all the other subjects are on. Most of these classes will be theory based.

The subjects you have to choose from are:

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Agricultural Science
- Business
- Accounting
- Engineering (was Metalwork in Junior Cycle)
- Construction Studies (was Woodwork in Junior Cycle)
- Design and Communication Graphics (was Technical Graphics in Junior Cycle)
- Art
- Music
- Home Economics
- History
- Geography
- French
- Leaving Certificate PE

Please read carefully the presentation on subject choice prepared by our Guidance Counsellor – Ms O’Riordan.

So, what exactly do you need to do:

1. Read through all the presentations available on this web page: <http://www.sbc.ie/third-year-options/>.

2. If your son daughter wishes to do the Leaving Certificate Applied straight away and not do Transition Year send an email to admin@sbc.ie with the students name and you are finished for now. We will be in contact with you later.
3. For all other students sit down with your son/daughter and discuss all the subjects choosing the five subjects they would like to study starting with the most important one and working down. Remember you will only get four subjects. When making these choices take account of college entry requirements for the career you wish. Details of these and where to get other information is available on the presentation prepared by Ms O’Riordan.
4. Log on to VSware and enter the subject options. The following link is a video explaining how to do this - <https://vsware.wistia.com/medias/kr62eqh02z>.
5. If you have any queries at all about subjects and how they relate to after-school choices email emer.oriordan@sbc.ie and she will help you out.
6. The deadline for entering subject options is 13th April 2020.

I am sorry that we cannot give you our usual presentation regarding this, but it is necessary to do this now as we need the information to prepare the school timetable and to discuss our teacher requirements with the Department of Education. If you have queries about the process or IT issues email admin@sbc.ie and we will respond to them.

Take care.

Yours sincerely

Helen Cadogan
Principal