

# Kinsale Community School 5<sup>th</sup> Year Subject Choice



# To be discussed:



- ▶ Factors to consider when deciding on subject choice
- ▶ The NEW points System
- ▶ Entry Requirements v Course Requirements
- ▶ Science requirements
- ▶ Exam v Practical and percentages awarded
- ▶ Key websites - the tools for research
- ▶ Procedure for submitting form

# Leaving Certificate Established



- ▶ 2 year ACADEMIC programme
  - ▶ High level of work and commitment required
  - ▶ Over 50% of the Leaving Certificate course will be covered in 5<sup>th</sup> Year
  - ▶ What is the end goal/career ambition?
- 
- Students choose 7 subjects from the subjects available
  - Availability of subjects may be restricted by timetabling constraints
  - Points are counted from the best 6 subjects for CAO

# Factors influencing decision

- ▶ **Interest** in the subject - will tend to work harder in areas of interest
- ▶ **Ability/Aptitude** in the subject
- ▶ Is the subject necessary for chosen career?
- ▶ Is the subject **desirable** for chosen career?



# Your Interests...

- ▶ Identify the subjects they like, not the subjects their friend likes.
- ▶ Take Interest tests

- ▶ [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)

- ▶ [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)

- ▶ Career Interest Inventory



# Aptitudes/Abilities

- ▶ Identify which subjects your son/daughter is enjoys and shows a competency for.
- ▶ Consider:
  - ▶ Exam results
  - ▶ Teacher's comments
  - ▶ The general attitude to the subject



# Future Career / Study Path

- ▶ Possible training or work entry requirements
- ▶ Identify essential subjects for:
  - ▶ College/Training/Employer entry
  - ▶ Course College Entry
- ▶ If unsure, keep options open.



Choosing your career starts with understanding yourself

career understanding





# SENIOR CYCLE

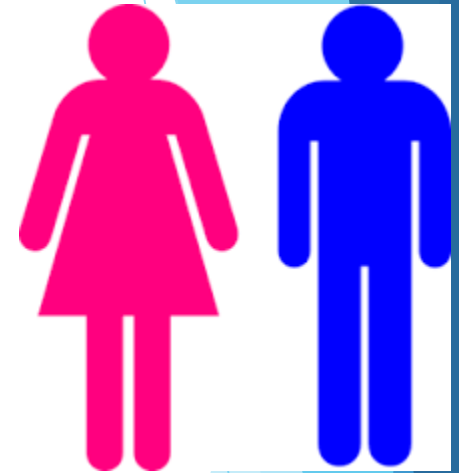
- ▶ HUGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JUNIOR AND SENIOR CYCLE
- ▶ FEWER SUBJECTS FOR EXAMINATION SO SUBJECTS ARE STUDIED IN GREATER DEPTH
- ▶ MORE TIME GIVEN TO THOSE SUBJECTS E.G. FROM 3 CLASSES TO MIN 5 PER WEEK
- ▶ THE LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY WITH REGARD TO SUBJECTS IS MUCH HIGHER

# PREPARATION FOR GOOD SUBJECT CHOICE

- ▶ RESEARCH DIFFERENT SUBJECTS ONLINE
- ▶ STUDENTS ARE BEING ADVISED TO SPEAK WITH SUBJECT TEACHERS (JC TEACHERS CAN ADVISE ON SUITABILITY)
- ▶ DISCUSS SUBJECT CHOICE WITH PARENTS
- ▶ IF UNSURE WHAT TO STUDY - IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO SELECT SUBJECTS THAT WILL KEEP OPTIONS OPEN
- ▶ TRY TO FIND A BALANCE BETWEEN LEARNING BASED SUBJECTS AND PRACTICAL / APPLIED SUBJECTS.

# INFLUENCERS TO BE MINDFUL OF

- PERCEIVED AS BEING 'EASY' OR 'HARD'  
(No subject is easy/hard.....suitability)
- 'MALE' OR 'FEMALE' SUBJECT
- PICKING SUBJECTS IN RELATION TO TEACHERS
- PICKING SUBJECTS IN RELATION TO FRIENDS



# CONSEQUENCES OF POOR SUBJECT CHOICE

- ▶ LIKELY TO BE UNHAPPY IN CLASS FOR TWO YEARS - LACK OF MOTIVATION
- ▶ LIKELY NOT TO DO WELL - MAY IMPACT ON OVERALL ATTAINMENT
- ▶ NOT HAVING A SUBJECT YOU MAY NEED FOR COURSE OF CHOICE AFTER SCHOOL
- ▶ MAY WANT TO CHANGE SUBJECTS IN 5<sup>TH</sup> YEAR



## USEFUL OR REQUIRED?

- ▶ Most other courses/careers do not specifically require subjects but they are of course useful, e.g. you do not need Accounting in the Leaving Cert to study Accounting in College, but it helps!
- ▶ Art and Music - not generally required as basic entry requirement even if intending to study at third level BUT Portfolio (Art) or Competence test (Music) required for entry to third level courses.
- ▶ If serious about any area (Business, Art, Science, Practical, Technical, etc) then the choice of related subjects is easy and obvious.
- ▶ It is quite possible to study 3 science/technical or 2 creative/business subjects and students do so successfully every year.

# Remember!



Remember!

- ▶ Talk to **friends/students** who are studying it or have a **career** in an area they might like.
- ▶ Talk to teachers regarding the subjects they hope to do and examine the text books
- ▶ Keep *all options open* if you are unsure of what course/career they want to do
- ▶ Examine college prospecti and websites
- ▶ It is your son/daughter's responsibility to research college and subject requirements for any course which they are thinking about
- ▶ Consult [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) and **each** college website for the most up-to-date information.
- ▶ This information is a sample and should not be treated as absolute

# ROUTES AFTER SCHOOL

▶ APPLY TO POST LEAVING CERT COURSES (YOU APPLY DIRECTLY TO COLLEGE) eg. ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, COLLEGE OF COMMERCE, COLAISTE STIOFAN NAOFA, KINSALE COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

▶ APPLY TO COURSES THROUGH THE CAO (CENTRAL APPLICATIONS OFFICE) UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY eg. UCC, CIT, UL, TRINITY, ETC

▶ THE APPRENTICESHIP ROUTE - EARN WHILE YOU LEARN



**Kinsale College**  
Coláiste Chionn tSáile



**UCC**

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire  
University College Cork, Ireland

# QQI LEVELS

- **LEVEL 8 - (HONOURS DEGREE COURSES) RUN BY THE UNIVERSITIES e.g. UCC AND INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY e.g. CIT**
- **LEVEL 7 - (ORDINARY LEVEL DEGREES COURSES) RUN BY THE INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY**
- **LEVEL 6 - (HIGHER CERTIFICATE) RUN BY THE INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY**
- **Level 5 - RUN BY POST LEAVING CERT (PLC) COLLEGES**





# New Points System 2017

Percentage Score	H. Level Grade	H. Level CAO Points	O. Level Grade	O. Level CAO Points
90%-100%	H1	100	O1	56
80%-89.9%	H2	88	O2	46
70%-79.9%	H3	77	O3	37
60%-69.9%	H4	66	O4	28
<b>50%-59.9%</b>	<b>H5</b>	<b>56</b>	O5	20
<b>40%-49.9%</b>	H6	46	<b>O6</b>	12
<b>30%-39.9%</b>	<b>H7</b>	<b>37</b>	O7	0
0%-29.9%	H8	0	O8	0

**Maths: H6 or above qualify for bonus 25 points, must be in top 6 points calculation**

# CAO Points System

- ▶ The 6 subjects with the highest points are used for CAO Course Entry
- ▶ Points are calculated from **one sitting** of the Leaving Cert
- ▶ Points - reflect demand of year in question!
- ▶ All 3<sup>rd</sup> level colleges give the subject requirements necessary for entry to their courses in their Prospectus or on their website.

Check....

- ▶ Do you need a Science/Lab subject?
- ▶ Do you need a specific subject for a specific course?

# CAO Main Considerations

## ▶ Minimum Entry Requirements

- ▶ 2 H5 & 4 O6/H7
- ▶ 3 H5 & 4 O6/H7

## ▶ Specific Course Requirements

- ▶ Veterinary Medicine UCD - Chemistry H4
- ▶ Primary Teaching - Irish H4
- ▶ Medicine, Dentistry & Pharmacy UCC
  - ▶ Chemistry H4 & Physics/Biology
  - ▶ Engineering - H4 in Maths

## ▶ CAO Points

The number of courses which require specific subjects are quite limited, but these courses need to be researched.



# Additional Subject Requirements



# UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire  
University College Cork, Ireland

## World Languages

H3 in a language other than English

## Commerce (International) with a language

H3 in a language other than English

H3 in French / Irish

## Law with French / Irish

H3 in French or H3 in Irish

## Sciences

H4

H4 in Biology (CK405)

H3 in Maths (CK407)

H4 in Maths (CK409)

## Engineering

H4 in Maths

## Health Sciences

H4 in Chemistry & Physics or Biology

H5 In Chemistry (Pharmacy)

H4 in Science

H4 in language (CK705)

# Getting into college:

## Biological and Chemical Sciences UCC Level 8 Honours Bachelor Degree

General  
Requirements



6 Subjects

2 H5s +  
4 O6/H7s

English, Irish, &  
Maths

Specific Course  
Requirements



Science H4

Points



489 Points

# Getting into college: General Engineering CIT Level 8 Honours Bachelor Degree

General  
Requirements



6 Subjects

2 H5s +  
4 O6/H7s

English or Irish  
Maths

Specific Course  
Requirements



Maths O1/H6

Points



392 Points

# Apprenticeships

- ▶ ESB Electrical (SOLAS)
- ▶ GlaxoSmithKline
- ▶ Heavy Vehicle mechanics for Bus Éireann
- ▶ Entry requirement: 06/H7 in one science subject



Energy for generations



GlaxoSmithKline  
Consumer Healthcare



**Bus Éireann**



# POST LEAVING CERT COURSES (PLCs)

- **APPLY ONLINE DIRECTLY TO COLLEGE**
- **FIVE PASSES IN LEAVING CERT (5 06/H7) PLUS INTERVIEW**
- **LEAVING CERT APPLIED STUDENTS ALSO ACCEPTED**
- **SOME MINIMUM SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS MAY APPLY**  
*eg. Beauty therapy requires Biology at Leaving Cert level and some Computer Courses require Ordinary Level maths*
- **THERE ARE LINKS IN PLACE TO PROGRESS TO LEVEL 6, 7 AND 8 IN INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY AND UNIVERSITIES (eg. *Childcare with Early Childhood Studies UCC and CIT*)**

# SCIENCE SUBJECTS

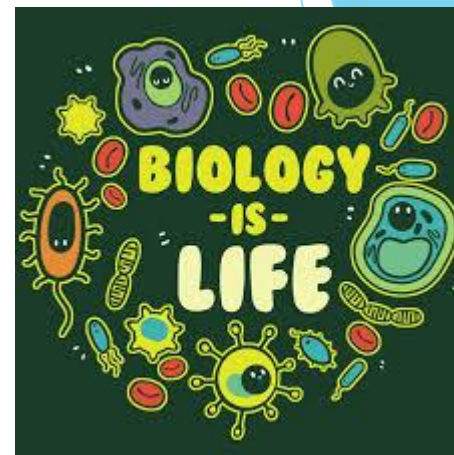
- **ONE LABORATORY SCIENCE SUBJECT (*Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Agricultural Science*) NEEDED FOR MOST SCIENCE/HEALTHCARE RELATED COURSES**

- ***MUST BE BIOLOGY FOR***
  - HUMAN HEALTH AND DISEASE (TCD)
  - GENETICS (UCC)
  - BEAUTY THERAPY (PLC COURSES)

❖ ADVISABLE FOR NURSING

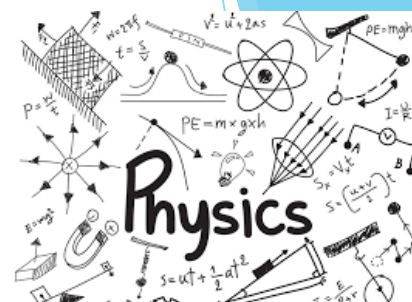
- ***MUST BE CHEMISTRY FOR***
  - DENTISTRY (UCC)
  - HUMAN NUTRITION AND DIETETICS (TUD)
  - MEDICINE (UCC)
  - PHARMACY (UCC and TCD)
  - VETERINARY MEDICINE (UCD)

❖ ADVISABLE FOR ALL MEDICINE



# SCIENCE SUBJECTS

- **MUST BE PHYSICS FOR**
  - THEORETICAL PHYSICS (TCD)
  - ❖ ADVISABLE FOR ENGINEERING COURSES
- **TWO SCIENCES NEEDED FOR**
  - PHARMACY
  - SOME MEDICINE ENTRY
  - MOST PHYSIOTHERAPY (Except UL)
- **MEDICINE**
  - GENERALLY TWO SCIENCES (5YRS) EXCEPT NUIG, RCSI, UCD SIX YEAR COURSE WITH ONE SCIENCE SUBJECT
  - LEAVING CERT SCORES ADDED TO HPAT



Currently 1/3 of Ireland's workforce & 75% of future jobs will be underpinned by STEM

# Examples of areas that a Science Subject is needed

- Physical Sciences/Astronomy
- Sports Science
- Public Health
- Laboratory Sciences
- Physiotherapy (Example of an exception - TC Sciences but can use Honours Maths as second

- Radiography
- Occupational Therapy
- Food Sciences
- Horticulture
- Education (some)
- Environmental Sciences
- Nursing
- Equine Science
- Engineering
- Agriculture
- Computer Sciences (only some)
- Geological Sciences

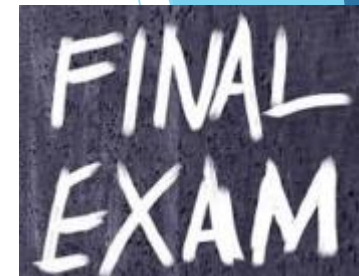
- Optometry
- Industrial Design
- Podiatry
- Speech & Language Therapy
- Apprenticeships (some)

- Genetics
- Beauty Therapy (some)
- Human Health & Disease

## •Theoretical Physics

- Dietetics (H4chem)
- Medicine (H4chem & Bio/Phy)
- Dentistry (H4chem & Bio/Phy)
- Veterinary (H4chem)
- Pharmacy (H4chem)

# Practical, Project & Exam Info



# Practical, Project & Exam Info

## Business

Accounting

All 100% Exam

Business

## Arts and Humanities

Art

62.5% Practical

Geography

20% Investigation

History

20% Project

Music

50% Practical

# Practical, Project & Exam Info

## Science

Biology	100% Exam
Chemistry	100% Exam
Physics	100% Exam
Agriculture Science	25% Project

## Applied Science

Home Economics	20% Practical
Design Communication Graphics	40% Project

# Remember!

- ▶ Focus on what the student likes and enjoys...
- ▶ Consider the subjects they are good at...
- ▶ Take note of future matriculation and course requirements





# SOME USEFUL RESOURCES

- ▶ [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) (click on students, then subject choice, then on minimum requirements and also in choosing a career)
- ▶ [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie) (very comprehensive)
- ▶ Any of the college websites such as [www.ucc.ie](http://www.ucc.ie) [www.cit.ie](http://www.cit.ie) [www.ul.ie](http://www.ul.ie) [www.csn.ie](http://www.csn.ie) ,etc.  
The above and such other sites will give specific information on Third Level courses
- ▶ Last years Points can be found in these websites also or also on [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)
- ▶ Information on the % of grades awarded in each subject is available on [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie) and gives access to past exam papers
- ▶ [www.curriculumonline.ie](http://www.curriculumonline.ie) (allows you to see what is involved in the LC subject)

# CAREERSPORTAL

Ireland's Leading Career Guidance Website



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Self Assessment ▼

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College Graduates



Parents Guardians



Job Seekers



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APPRENTICESHIPS



SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

Ask the experts

featuring...



Employer Profiles

featuring...



College Profiles

featuring...



@ School

What is a Career?

Starting your Career Path

What's it like to be...

Career Guidance at school

## Junior Cert

*Discover how Junior Cert subjects prepare you for your career, take our Study Skills test, and check out Subject Choices for Leaving Cert.*

## Transition Year



*Get prepared for your Work Experience and discover the World of Work. Explore the skills you need for a successful career.*

## Leaving Cert

*Explore all your options after school, including CAO and PLC Courses. Improve your Study Skills to maximise your results.*

## LCVP & LCA

*Access resources to help with Work Experience, Career Investigation and more...*



## @ School

CareersPortal provides all the tools you need to help you find and develop your career. We believe you deserve the best, and encourage you to spend time discovering what makes you different and unique, so you can build your own future.

# Subject Choice at KCS

## Compulsory Subjects

### All Three Subjects (3)

- ▶ Irish (or Business if DES exempt)
- ▶ English
- ▶ Maths
  
- ▶ These subjects are vital for careers/ courses

### One of the Following (1)

- ▶ French
- ▶ German
- ▶ Geography

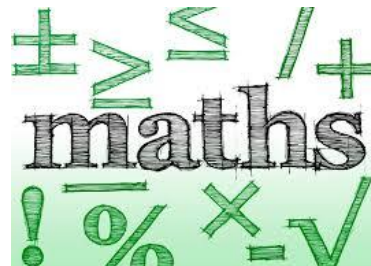


# OPTIONAL SUBJECTS - CHOOSE 4

- ▶ **Geography**
- ▶ **History**
- ▶ **Home Economics**
- ▶ **Physics** (JC Science)
- ▶ **Chemistry** (JC Science)
- ▶ **Biology** (JC Science)
- ▶ **Art**
- ▶ **Music**
- ▶ **Business** (JC Bus St)
- ▶ **Accounting** (JC Bus St)
- ▶ **Construction Studies**  
(Woodwork for JC)
- ▶ **Engineering** (Metalwork for JC)
- ▶ **Design and Communication Graphics**  
(Tech Graph for JC)
- ▶ **Agricultural Science**
- ▶ **Exam Religion**
- ▶ **Physical Education**
- ▶ **Applied Maths\***
- ▶ **Economics\***
- ▶ **Computer Science\***

# OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

- ▶ It is desirable for a student to have studied a subject to Junior Cert.
- ▶ It may be possible to pick up new subjects but some are more difficult than others e.g. Biology and Home Economics.
- ▶ Maths is generally more important for studying Engineering and Business courses in Third level than the specific subjects.
- ▶ Physics opens up lots of opportunities, especially engineering.





# GENERAL ADVICE

Many students have an idea of their direction re. subject choice

SCIENTIFIC

ARTISTIC / CREATIVE

PRACTICAL

SOCIAL / HEALTH

HUMANITIES

BUSINESS

Making very acceptable combinations of choices

Many students will change their minds about their future a number of times in the next 2 years

If students are really not sure what they want to do in the future:

*Pick a broad range of subjects in order to keep options open*

- ▶ e.g.
  - ▶ one *language*
  - ▶ one *science*
  - ▶ one *business*
  - ▶ one *humanities / practical*
- ▶ This combination would allow access into a broad range of courses/careers.

# Procedures around Subject Choice

- ▶ FORM HAS BEEN POSTED HOME
- ▶ LIST 4 SUBJECTS - IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE
- ▶ THEY WILL MOST PROBABLY GET THEIR TOP THREE, THE FOURTH IS A 'BACK-UP'.
- ▶ FORM FILLED IN PROPERLY AND SIGNED IN TO MR HOGAN BY THE 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020.



# FINALLY

- ▶ THE STUDENT SHOULD PICK WHAT THEY LIKE AND WHAT YOU'RE GOOD AT
- ▶ CONSIDER WHAT CAREER YOU MIGHT WANT TO PURSUE AND MAKE SURE SUBJECT CHOICES REFLECT REQUIREMENTS
- ▶ BE REALISTIC ABOUT ABILITY AND POSSIBLE FUTURE COURSE AND CAREER CHOICE
- ▶ STUDENTS WILL HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR CHOICE



*The End!*

*Thank you for  
your attention!*

