

2023

Students are required to make choices in relation to the subjects they wish to study for their Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate.

### **Junior Cycle Subject Choice**

Students select their optional subjects prior to starting first year. All students complete a CAT4 assessment to assist with this process. After a Subject Information Evening, informing parents/guardians of each subjects, they then select their top 3 preferences and submit via our VSware platform. Students are allocated their subjects, trying to maximise all students' preferences. Parents are informed by post of their son's choices. While it is not always possible to accommodate every student with their first and second choice due to subject demands and maximum class-size restrictions, satisfaction rates are normally over 90%. The Guidance counsellor is available to meet any students who are unhappy with their allocated subjects to try to accommodate them where possible with a satisfactory solution.

### **Fifth Year Subject Choice**

Students are obliged to take seven subjects to the Leaving Certificate. These include: English, Irish and Maths (three Core subjects) and 4 choice subjects. Students with a Department of Education exemption are only required to do 6 subjects. Students going forward from either Transition Year or Third Year complete a CAT4 assessment in January.

Prior to selecting their subjects an extensive programme is delivered by the guidance counsellor to the transition year students during timetabled guidance classes. Third year students going forward to 5th year are met individually by the Guidance Counsellor. All students are given information and assistance in the decision making and the factors that need to be considered to make an informed decision. Subject teachers speak to the students about their subject area in Senior Cycle. Before students select their subjects, parents are invited to an information evening on subject choice presented by the School Management and the Guidance Counsellor so that they are included in the decision-making process. A copy of the CAT4 summary report is also provided. Furthermore, every parent/guardian are provided with a copy of our Subject Choice Information Booklet, which outlines in detail every subject's specification, requirements and assessment procedures. Both students and parents are directed to a number of websites to access all information regarding subject choice. The Guidance Department meet individual students, groups of students and parents who request further assistance with this decision-making process.

Students are asked to select 5 preference from the 18 subjects and submit their preferences through VSware. This is a two-stage process; firstly it gives us the number of students wishing to do the different subjects, this information is processed by management and decisions are made as to how many different subject classes are to be provided. Secondly, with this information we now generates a number of the best possible option lines for the students' preferences. Management then decide with due regard to resources, timetabling and teacher allocation which are the best option lines to utilise. Students are allocated their subjects trying to maximize all students' preferences. While it is not always possible to accommodate every

student with their first four choices due to subject demands and number restrictions, satisfaction rates are normally around 85%.

Students are informed of their subject choices by post.

The Guidance Counsellor is available to meet any students and parents who are unhappy with their allocated subjects to try to accommodate them where possible with a satisfactory solution.

Students who feel they made an incorrect choice are facilitated to make changes where possible from September to the October midterm break. A change in subject allocation is carried out in consultation with the parents, the student, subject teacher and the guidance counsellor. Changes after this deadline are taken into consideration where exceptional circumstances exist, but these changes are only implemented at the discretion of management.

The Subject Departments of English, Irish and Maths along with School Management allocate students to teachers at the beginning of 5th year, according to ability level and/or performance at Junior Cycle, teacher's professional knowledge and judgement. The school does not change students from one class to another within the same subject level.

Ratified by the Board of Management on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

(Chairperson BOM)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

(Principal /Secretary BOM)