



# Comeragh College Parents Evening 2026

## Leaving Certificate Subject Choice





# Agenda

- Leaving Certificate Subjects on offer
- Procedure for subject choice
- How best to choose subjects
- Requirements for third level, P.L.C.s and apprenticeships



# Leaving Certificate

Students at Comeragh College study 7 subjects for the Leaving Certificate

Students study Irish(unless exempt), English, Maths and then choose 4 optional subjects

**The optional subjects are\*:**

French/German/Spanish

Art

Music

Home Economics

Business

Accounting

Economics

Agricultural Science

Biology

Chemistry

Construction Studies

Design & Communication Graphics

Engineering

History

Geography



\*Subject to change based on student uptake/teacher allocation



# Leaving Certificate

- Some changes are happening to how the Leaving Certificate is assessed.
- There will be an increase in project-based work in some subjects.
- For 5th students starting in September 2026, Biology, Chemistry, Business, Construction, Engineering and Geography will have practical components worth 40%.
- Students will learn more about this from the subject teachers.





# Subject Choice Procedure

- Parent Information Night
- Students attend Subject Choice Teacher Assembly
- Guidance Counsellor gives classes to relevant 3<sup>rd</sup> and TY students on subject choice
- Subject Choice Computer Research Class
- Guidance Counsellor speaks to students and parents if required
- Students advised to read Subject Choice booklet along with doing some research on their options by spending time on the Leaving Certificate Subjects page on the Careers Portal website

[https://careersportal.ie/school/subject\\_explorer.php](https://careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer.php)





# Subject Choice Procedure

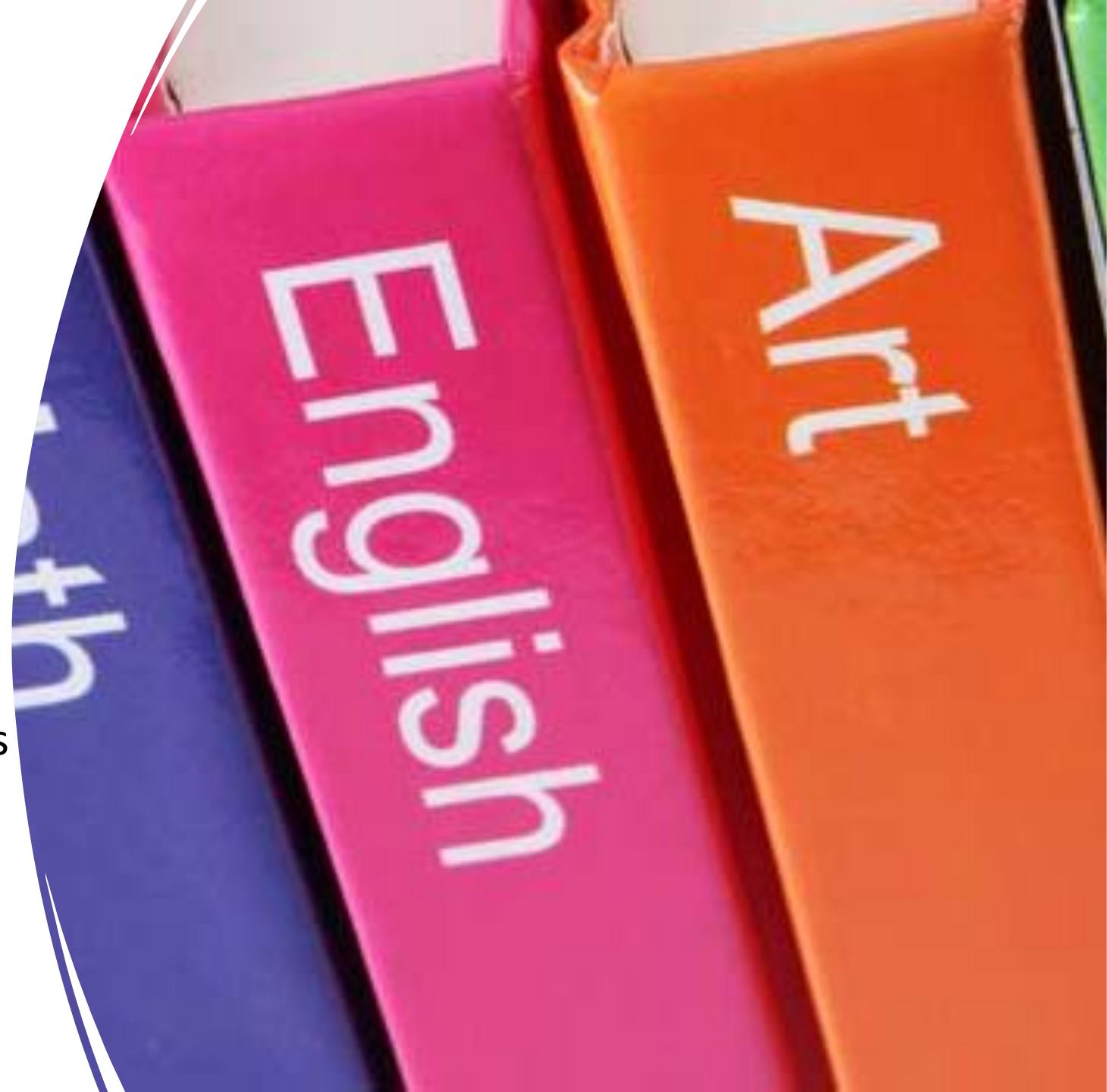
- Subject Choice Preferences to be filled in through VS Ware app/website with parent/guardian (dates TBD)
- Students will be asked to pick their top 8 subjects in **order of preference**
- Vs Ware generates the fairest timetable based on student preferences
- We do our best to get students subjects they are happy with, but issues can arise such as clashes on the timetable and oversubscription to classes
- Please encourage your son/daughter to focus on the subjects they did get from their top choices

# How to choose subjects

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It is important to consider the following when choosing your subjects:

1. Interest
2. College and Course requirements
3. Ability
4. General subject package / subject balance
5. Career aspirations





## 1. Interest

The **most** important thing is to.....

- Choose subjects that **YOU** enjoy
- Pick your subjects based on **YOUR** interests- not your friends or not based on the teacher you think you will have
- You will be the person completing the homework and study for the subject, so you want this to be as painless as possible!



## 2. College Entry Requirements: Leaving Certificate Grades and Points

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

- To calculate your Leaving Certificate points you add your 6 best subjects
- *There are 25 bonus points for H6 or higher in Maths*



## 2. College Entry Requirements

- It is important to keep in mind that colleges have **basic entry requirements** to take up any course at that institution
  - e.g. SETU require 5 O6/H7s including a pass in ordinary level Maths and English or Irish
  - e.g. UL require 2 H5s & 4 O6/H7s including a pass in Maths, English, and Irish or another language
- In addition to college basic entry requirements, courses often **have individual entry requirements**
  - e.g. **Common Engineering** Level 8 SETU requires 2 H5s and 4 O6/H7s which must include English or Irish and **O2/H6 in Maths**
    - e.g. UCC **Nursing** requires 2 H5s and 4 O6/H7 which must include English, Irish, Maths and a **Laboratory Science**



# College Entry Requirements

- Do I need to study a Science Subject (Ag Science/Biology/Chemistry)?

- If you want to study a Science or Health Science (Nursing, Physiotherapy, Medicine, Vet Nursing etc.) related course you will need to have a Science subject.
- Some courses require a specific Science subject, or 2 Science subjects, and it is important to check the entry requirements for Science courses of interest.
- *e.g. Veterinary Medicine UCD, Human Nutrition/Dietetics requires you to have Chemistry, Medicine and Dentistry UCC require Chemistry and Biology*
- ***Veterinary Medicine SETU \*- requires a H4 in Biology or Chemistry & 60 Hours Work Experience***
- ***Pharmacy SETU\*-requires Chemistry and 1 more Science (Biology or Ag Science)***

*\*new course starting Sept 2026*



# College Entry Requirements

- Do I need to study a Language (French/German/Spanish)?

- If you want to study a course that contains language learning such as International Business/ European Studies/ Applied Languages
- If you want to become a **cadet** in the Army
- Most courses in **U.C.C./ Maynooth University/ U.C.D. / University of Galway** require a third language. Students with a language exemption can apply for these courses.
- Many Science, Engineering, Nursing, Primary Teaching courses do not require a third language. Primary Teaching requires a H4 in Irish and minimum O4/H7 Maths and English.
- Medicine/ Dentistry/ Pharmacy / Speech & Language Therapy/ Radiography/ Physiotherapy in NUI Colleges require a third language.
- Polish/Russian/Lithuanian etc. are considered as a language for entry into college.
- *It is important to carefully research the requirements for your areas of interest before deciding to not study a language for Leaving Certificate.*



### **3. Ability**

- Where do their strengths lie?
- What have they struggled with to date?

### **4. Balanced Subject Package**

- Look at the suite of subjects- is there a balance between practical and theory subjects?



## 5. Career Aspirations: Consider Required and Useful Subjects

- When choosing your Leaving Certificate subjects, it is important to consider the subjects that are **required** for entry onto some courses and the subjects that may be **useful** for courses of interest.
- A **required** subject means that without that subject you will not be able to get a place on the course.
- A **useful** subject means it is not essential for entry onto the course, but it may have something in common with the course content.

For example: Bachelor of Business Studies in U.L. requires 2 H5s and 4 O6/H7s to include Maths, English and Irish or another language.

This means that a Business subject is not required but a Business subject would be a useful subject to have for the course.



# Post Leaving Cert Courses & Apprenticeships

Most P.L.C.s & Apprenticeships will look for 5 passes (O6s & H7s). Some apprenticeships will require OL Maths. Consider subjects that might be helpful for the P.L.C. or Apprenticeship even if not required.

- Construction is not required for a Carpentry apprenticeship but may be helpful.
- Art is not required for a P.L.C. in W.C.F.E.'s Photography and Digital Media but may be helpful.
- Biology is not required for entry to Beauty and Hairdressing courses.
- Suitability for entry to P.L.C. courses is determined by an application form and interview.



## How can I help as a Parent/Guardian?

- Talk through each subject that your son/daughter is interested in
- Read through the subject choice booklet with them, carry out some research
- Show your concern if you are worried about a certain subject they are choosing
- Ensure that they fill in their subjects in **order of preference** with 1 being their favourite



# Key Messages

- **Interest** in the subject is the most important thing to consider for the order of subject preferences
- Take the decision seriously- these are subjects you will spend a lot of time on both in school and at home for the Leaving Certificate. Once your choices are inputted, they are final.
- If students don't have an idea yet of what they would like to study after school, it is good to choose a variety of subjects to keep options open.
- Students need to research any colleges, careers and courses they think they might be interested in as it is their responsibility to ensure they choose subjects that might be required. Talk to your Guidance Counsellor if you have a question about entry requirements. Do not make the decision based on your friends or the teacher you think you will have!
- Students/parents must complete their preferences on VsWare by the deadline. **Order of preference is absolutely essential.**

# Thank you for listening.

Useful Websites:

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

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

[www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)

[www.curriculumonline.ie](http://www.curriculumonline.ie)

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