

1st Year Information Evening 2023



Our Lady's Secondary School
Monday 02/10/2023

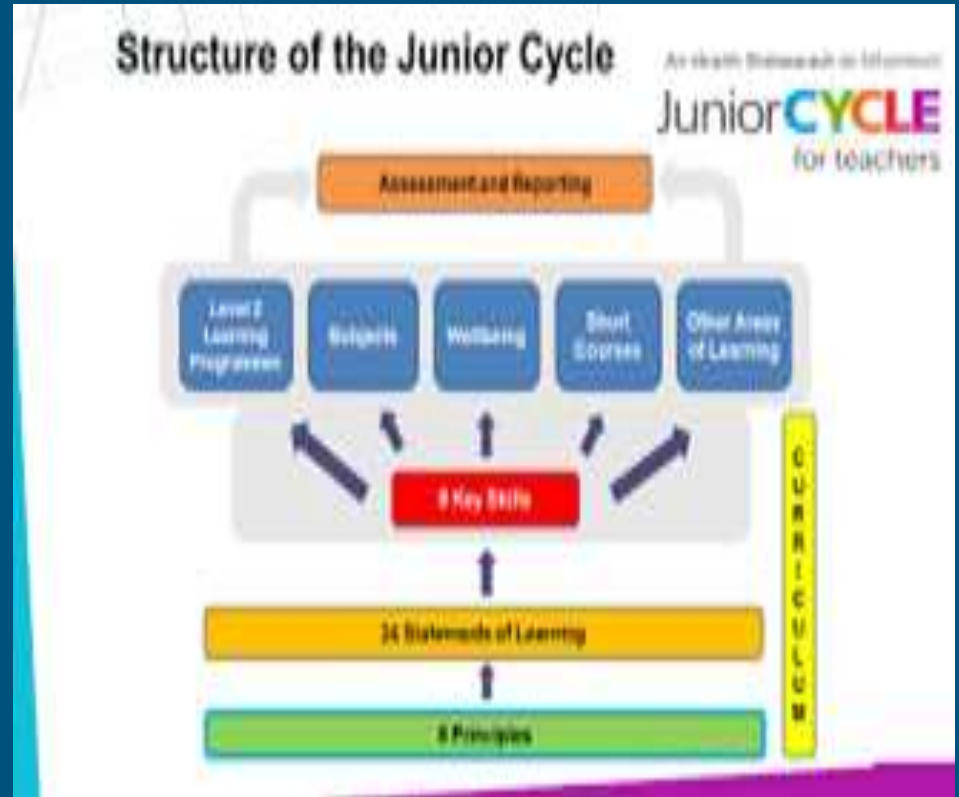
How student achievement at Junior Cycle will be assessed

The release of the Junior Certificate results by the State Examinations Commission (SEC) in September 2016 marked the end of an era. In the future, junior cycle students will receive a new Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA). The JCPA will reflect a much wider range of your child's achievements over the three years of junior cycle. The JCPA will report on a number of areas, including:-

1. Subjects
2. Classroom Based Assessments
3. Short courses
4. Other Learning Experiences

What is the Purpose of Education in the Junior Cycle?

Eight principles underpin the Framework for Junior Cycle. These principles will inform the planning for as well as the development and the implementation of junior cycle programmes in all schools.



What's new? Classroom Based Assessments (CBA's) and Assessment Tasks

Classroom Based Assessments:

These could range from project tasks, oral language tasks and investigations, to practical or designing and making tasks, field studies and artistic performances.

Student achievement in CBA's will be reported on

using the following descriptors:

Exceptional; Above Expectations; In line with Expectations; and Yet to meet Expectations

Assessment Tasks:

This is a written assessment that assesses what students have learned, and asks about skills that they have developed, from their experience of having completed the second Classroom-Based Assessment. The Assessment Task will be completed during class time under the supervision of the teacher and will take place over two lesson periods

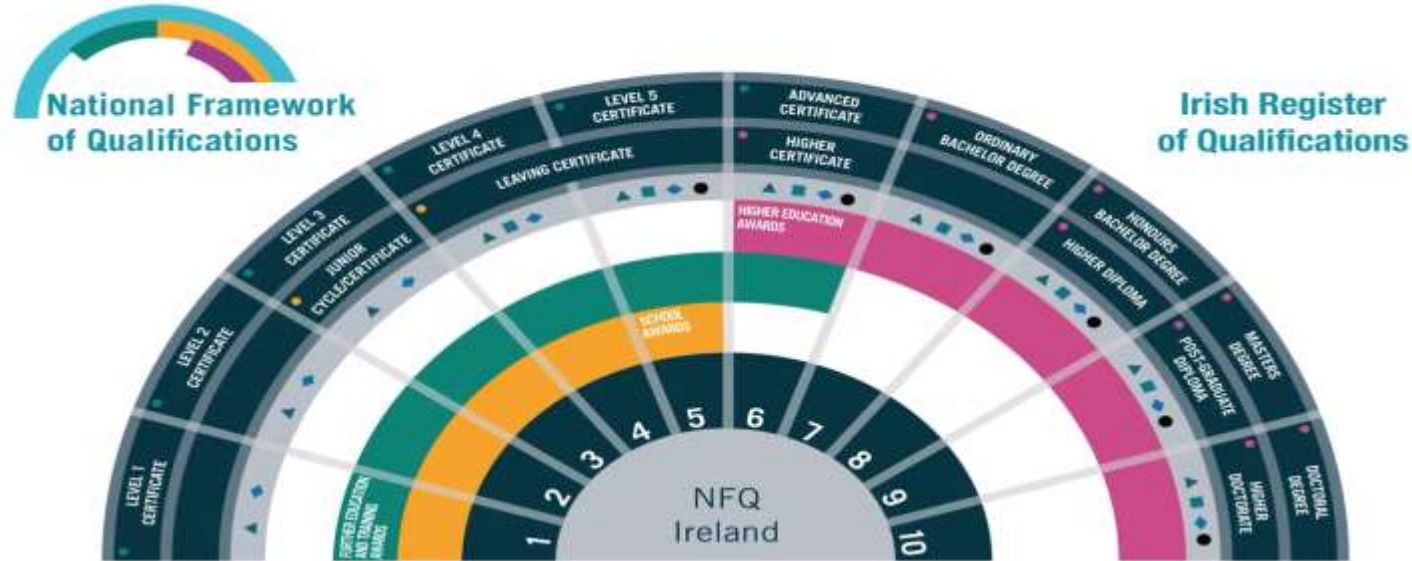
The AT script is sent, along with the final assessment at the end of third year, to the State Examinations Commission (SEC) to be marked. It will account for up to 10% of the state-certified examination and will be incorporated into the grade that a student receives for their final SEC examination.

Final Examination

The final examination will be:

- No longer than two hours duration
- Taken in a maximum of 10 subjects only
- Available at a common level apart from English, Mathematics and Irish where there will be two levels (Higher and Ordinary).
- Assessed by SEC using the following set of Grades: **Distinction; Higher Merit; Merit; Achieved; and Partially Achieved**

National Framework of Qualifications



CLASSES OF AWARD

- Major Awards:** named in the outer rings, are the principal class of awards made at a level
- Minor Awards:** are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
- Supplemental Awards:** are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
- Special Purpose Awards:** are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement
- Professional Awards:** these are for occupation-orientated qualifications including apprenticeships

IRISH REGISTER OF QUALIFICATIONS

- For more information on:
- Qualifications
 - Providers
 - Courses
- visit www.irq.ie

Subject Options:

Students choose 2 Option Subjects:

- Visual Art
- Home Economics
- Business
- Materials Technology Wood (Woodwork)
- Technical Graphics (TG)
- Music
- Technology



Junior Cycle: Visual Art

- Visual Art is a practical subject
- Art: Art, or fine art, is the expression of creative skills in a visual form. It emphasises ideas, feelings and visual qualities through imaginative and/or technical skill. Apart from the creation of artworks, fine art also encompasses the study of art through appreciation and critical discussion.
- Craft: Craft is the application of a range of particular artistic skills and knowledge to produce artefacts of aesthetic worth. With an emphasis on processes and materials, the artefacts created may represent either traditional crafts or a more individual approach by the craftsperson.
- Design: Design is the process of planning, problem-solving and creating. It can be a response to a brief, a need or a situation. Emphasising the process of planning, problem-solving and completion, with drawing as a mean of thinking, formal visual elements and imagery are used to communicate messages and ideas.



Junior Cycle: Home Economics



Home Economics is a subject where you will learn how to take care of yourself, others, your home and your environment. As Home Economics is a very practical subject, you will carry out a lot of activities in school and at home.

The Home Economics course consists of three strands:

- **Food, Health and Culinary Skills:** This strand will encourage students to develop a healthy, sustainable attitude and positive relationship with food through practical experiential learning.
- **Responsible Family Living:** This strand facilitates students to explore, from a systems perspective, responsible family living. Students develop life skills to enable them to manage resources responsibly and sustainably in the home, family and community.
- **Textiles and Craft:** This strand focuses on students' textile skills, knowledge and creativity

The practical food skills examination and the written examination will be marked by the State Examinations Commission.

<https://curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-Subjects/Home-Economics/Overview-Course/>

Junior Cycle: Business



This new specification for Junior Cycle Business Studies covers teaching, learning and assessment in business studies for the first, second and third years in post-primary school.

The specification focuses on improving students' understanding of the business environment and on developing skills for life, work and further study through the three inter-connected strands: **Personal Finance** , **Enterprise** and **Our Economy**

<https://curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-Subjects/Business-Studies/>

Junior Cycle: Wood Technology



Materials Technology Wood (MTW) is one of the technology subjects offered at Junior Cycle. In MTW you will learn to design small projects and the skills required to use tools and equipment to make your designs. You will work mainly with wood but also with other materials. You will learn about wood as a material and how it is produced.

HOW WILL WOOD TECHNOLOGY BE USEFUL TO ME?

Students can learn many practical skills that can prove useful for later in life. They will learn the correct procedures to follow when developing an idea into a finished artefact e.g. a piece of furniture or a child's toy etc. They will be able to identify different trees, recognise their importance to us and our environment and they will learn some of the skills to make objects from wood and know how to apply appropriate finishes to them, e.g. paint, varnish, stain or polish.

<https://curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-Subjects/Wood-Technology/>

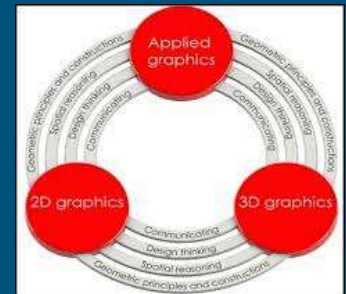
Junior Cycle: Technical Graphics

Graphics is recognised as the underpinning language of the technology disciplines and is transferable across a wide range of subjects such as mathematics, science and art. Students will use a variety of media to communicate their ideas and designs through this unique language. Throughout the course, students will explore the geometric world to gain an appreciation of the importance of graphics in the world around them. They will develop cognitive and practical skills such as graphical communication, spatial visualisation, creative problem-solving, design capabilities and modelling, both physically and through the use of computer-aided design.

The course consists of three strands:

- 2D Graphics
- 3D Graphics
- Applied Graphics

<https://curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-Subjects/Graphics/>



Junior Cycle: Music



Music is an important part of everyone's life. In Junior Cycle Music, you will sing and possibly learn how 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.

The course consists of three strands:

- *Procedural Knowledge*
- *Innovate and Ideate*
- *Culture and Context.*

As students attain the learning through these elements across the strands, they will develop their critical skills and allow their musical selves emerge.

<https://curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-Subjects/Music/>

Junior Cycle: Applied Technology

Technology is mainly about using a design process to solve technological problems. In Applied Technology, you will use the design process to work through a task or problem in order to arrive at a solution, which is usually in the form of an artefact or finished product. You will learn how to safely use the tools, materials and equipment necessary to make this product.

HOW WILL APPLIED TECHNOLOGY BE USEFUL TO ME?

*Applied Technology will help you to solve many technological problems you may experience in your everyday life. This subject teaches you to think about a problem and then use your knowledge and skills to design a solution to that problem. It will also teach you skills in the use of basic tools and equipment. You will also be able to identify many different types of materials and have a **basic understanding of electronic circuits and gear systems.***



Important Factors to Consider when Choosing a Subject:

The questions that students should answer in relation to subject choice include:

- What subjects do I like?
- What subjects am I good at?
- What kind of activities, both in school and out of school, do I like? Why?
- What kind of activities, both in school and out of school, am I good at?
- Are there things that I like, but am not good at, and vice versa? Why?
- Do I like a subject, because I like the teacher?
- Will I have the same teacher for the subject next year?

<https://www.ncge.ie/sites/default/files/2018-10-02%20Subject%20choice%20students.pdf>

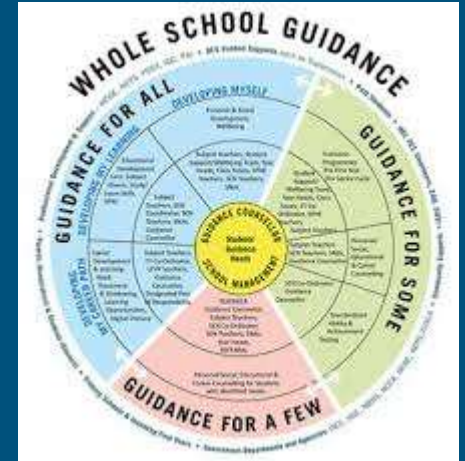
Student Support Structures with Our Lady's Secondary School

- Class Tutor
- YearHead
- Guidance Counsellor
- Chaplain
- External Counsellor



Guidance and Counselling Department OLSS

- 2 Guidance Counsellors Mr Willie Geraghty and Mrs Christine McSorley
- Classroom Based Guidance at Junior and Senior Cycle
- 1:1 Personal Counselling
- Group work - Restorative Circles
- Career Guidance - CAO, UCAS, EUNICAS, Apprenticeships, Traineeships
- Vocational Guidance - CV Preparation, Mock Interviews
- Testing - CAT's/ DAT's etc.
- Study Skills
- Progression Planning
- Social Skills/Anger Management programmes



The Role of the Guidance Counsellor

Counselling assists the student:

- To learn to accept, use and cope with information about the self and others.
- To develop skills and aptitudes which may contribute to achieving full potential.
- To promote recognition, understanding and acceptance of individual differences including cultural and intellectual diversity.
- To understand the dynamics of human behaviour



Confidentiality within Guidance and Counselling

The Guidance Counsellor observes confidentiality unless:

- There is clear and present danger to the student and /or others.
- It is necessary to consult with other professionals when it is in the best interests of the student/client to do so.
- The student/client verbally or in writing waives confidentiality.
- Compliance with laws designed to protect young people is an issue.

The Guidance Counsellor will work in congruence with the Code of Ethics of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors.

Internal Liaison

Parents/Guardians

Chaplain

Management

Year Heads

Administration

Subject Teachers

Learning Support

Class Tutors

Peer Support



External Liaison

Social Workers

Psychologists/ NEPS

Guidance

Gardai

ISPCC

National Learning Network

CAMHS

Juvenile Liaison Officers

Solas

HSE Occupational Guidance Service

College Admissions



Supporting the Transition - What makes a difference?

Young people's ability to respond well to this specific transition is often related to their coping skills, personal resources, and the school environment itself. Encouraging the following aspects in your young person has been shown to help transitions:

- Resourcefulness
- Resilience
- Strategies to deal with challenges
- Independence and self-belief
- Skills relating to others such as listening actively, being tolerant and co-operation
- A sense of contribution to school and community.
- www.stepup.ie has a range of resources aimed at helping students and parents with the move from primary school to secondary school



Supporting the Transition - What makes a difference? Getting Involved

Extra Curricular Activities:

- Gaelic
- Basketball
- Equestrian
- Camogie
- Debating
- Music and Drama
- Soccer
- Horticulture



Useful Resources

- www.jct.ie
- www.juniorcycle.ie
- www.curriculumonline.ie
- www.jigsaw.ie
- www.stepup.ie
- www.careersportal.ie
- www.qualifax.ie