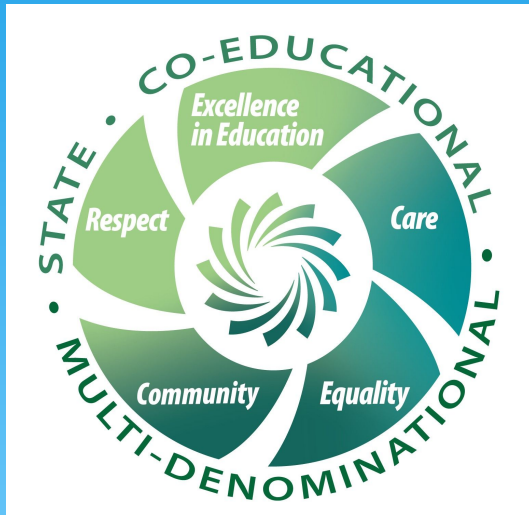




Senior Cycle Options & Subject Choice



Finn Valley College
2024/2025

Programme Choice



The first thing you need to consider is which programme to choose

School Programmes



Transition Year (TY)



Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)



Leaving Certificate Established (LCE)

Transition Year (TY)

Miss Garry



Transition Year (TY)

Work Experience

Mini Companies

Taster Subjects

Educational Trips



Transition Year

A presentation was given on TY to all 3rd year students and some parents in the past week.

This is a bridging year to allow growth in other areas

- * 75% of students in the country are doing TY - it works.
- * Students who have done TY fare better in State Examinations.
- * It is a year to mature and develop new skills

Subjects within Transition Year

- * The make up of the TY programme is driven by the students themselves.
- * Students will be surveyed on their interests...

Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

Mr White



Leaving Certificate Applied - LCA

The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) is a **two-year** programme aimed at students who wish to follow a more practical or vocationally orientated programme. It focusses on **three** main areas:

- **Vocational Preparation Subjects**
- **General Education Subjects**
- **Vocational Education Subjects**

Another key element of this programme is that it includes structured **Work Placements** throughout the two years.

Subjects within LCA

Core Subjects

- * English & Communications
- * Mathematical Applications
- * Social Education
- * Vocational Preparation & Guidance
- * Irish / Spanish (One year each)
- * Visual Art
- * Leisure & Recreation
- * Introduction to ICT

Specialisms/Electives

- * Agriculture / Horticulture
- * Engineering
- * Graphics & Construction
- * Hotel, Catering & Tourism
- * ICT

How LCA is assessed

Students work to collect a maximum of 200 'Credits' over the two years. These are collected in 3 ways-

Key Assignments in class =	62 credits (31%)
7 Student Tasks =	70 credits (35%)
Final Exams =	68 credits (34%)
Total	200 credits (100%)

Certificate awarded at three levels:

Pass (120 - 139 credits)	=	60-69%
Merit (140 - 169 credits)	=	70-84%
Distinction (170 - 200 credits)	=	85-100%

Leaving Certificate Established (LCE)

Ms McCafferty



Subjects offered for the Leaving Certificate in FVC

- * Students all take **English, Irish, Maths** and **Link Modules**.
- * They will choose **FOUR** other optional subjects from a suite of 12.

Spanish	Geography	History	Biology
Chemistry	Agricultural Science	Home Economics	Business
Construction Studies	Engineering	Art	Accounting

Students have received presentations on all of the above from the subject teachers and a senior student

Choosing the right optional subjects - Questions to ask yourself

- * What subjects am I good at?
- * What subjects do I like?
- * Are there any particular subjects that I will need to do for entry into college?

Advice

- * Take your time and discuss the merits of each programme before one you choose
- * Each programme will suit students with different interests, talents and abilities
- * You do not need to choose subjects for Transition Year or Leaving Certificate Applied

Next steps?

STEP 1

Students choose which programme they intend to study- Transition Year, LCA or Leaving Certificate.

A short [survey](#) which will be issued tomorrow, to be completed over the weekend. Please talk to your child in advance of this about the appropriate programme.

(**Students opting for either the TY or LCA programmes will not have to go through any of the next steps)

Next steps?

Step 2

Students opting for Leaving Certificate will then be asked to rank their TOP FOUR most preferred subjects (from the suite of 12) in order of preference 1 to 4.

The students will also select one other RESERVE subject (i.e. their next favourite)

Students must give an explanation as to why they have chosen each subject and also confirm that they have discussed their choices with parents.

Next steps?

Step 3

When we know the most popular choices selected by the students, the least popular subjects will then be removed from the options.

The remaining subjects will then be arranged into four bands and students will then be asked to select their favourite four subjects, one from each band.

For the small number of students that do not get their top 4 choices, the reserve subject will come into play.

Subject Choice process continued

- * The Guidance Counsellors and Principal, with the aid of the VShare programme, will establish which bands of subjects will maximise the number of students getting their selected preferences.
- * If required, a further consultation between the Guidance Counsellors and a small number of students who may not get all their preferences.
- * Some subjects have a limit on the numbers that are allowed in a class.
(e.g Home Ec = 20, Biology, Chemistry, Ag Sci, Const St & Engineering = 24)
- * Where large numbers of students choose a subject, the subject will be offered on a couple of lines and two classes will run.

Final Tips

1. Return Subject Choice forms in good time.
2. Students must select subjects for the right reasons.
3. Take the time to make the right choices as there may not be the opportunity to change your mind.
4. Parents/Guardians should be involved in the decision making process.

Advice
Mr White

Language
or no
Language??

What happens if I don't choose Spanish?

The NUI colleges of Ireland require a pass in a 3rd language for entry into a large number of their courses. (Not for Science/Engineering/Nursing)

This is approx 400 out of 1,800 courses

**** Use CareersPortal to demonstrate**

A 3rd language is also a requirement for the Cadets in the Army and Air corps.

**** If a student is born outside the state (i.e. Derry!) Irish will suffice as the 3rd language. You will just need to inform the college you're applying to****

Most courses within the TU's do not require a 3rd language unless for specific language courses.

Advice

Science or no Science??

What happens if I don't choose a Science?

If applying for anything in relation to Medicine, Nursing, Radiography, Physiotherapy, Human Nutrition, Pharmacy, Podiatry, Veterinary Nursing, Engineering or any of the science areas then you may well need to have a Science. Some may require a couple of sciences, others may require a specific Science.

Key takeaways!



- Programme Choice is first. TY & LCA then don't have to choose subjects.
- Mandatory subjects for LC are English, Irish, Maths & Link Modules.
- Students then choose FOUR more
- Level of subject for LC – Higher, Ordinary, Foundation (Maths/Irish)
- Importance of 3rd Language and Science Subject for some colleges. Important to keep your options open.
- Think of your interests, talents, ability, careers you think you would like.....

Career Guidance at Finn Valley College

- * TY, 5th and 6th year students have one class of Career Guidance per week.
- * One-to-one Career Guidance appointments with Guidance Counsellors in 6th Year.
- * We use the REACH+ Career and College Preparation Programme throughout the 2-3 years of Senior Cycle.
- * Attend Open Days/Taster Sessions/Career Events outside school. (ATU Donegal & Sligo, Ulster University, Donegal ETB)
- * In-school talks on various courses/careers (College reps, Past-Pupils).
- * Lots more.....



Thanks for your attention.

Any Questions?