



Senior Cycle Options

March 5th 2024

A guide for parents and
guardians

Welcome to
Athy College



Welcome

Thank you for being here tonight

Options for Senior Cycle



LCA, TY, LC



Prospective LCA students should speak with Ms. Lawlor or current LCA students about the programme.



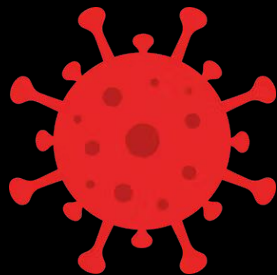
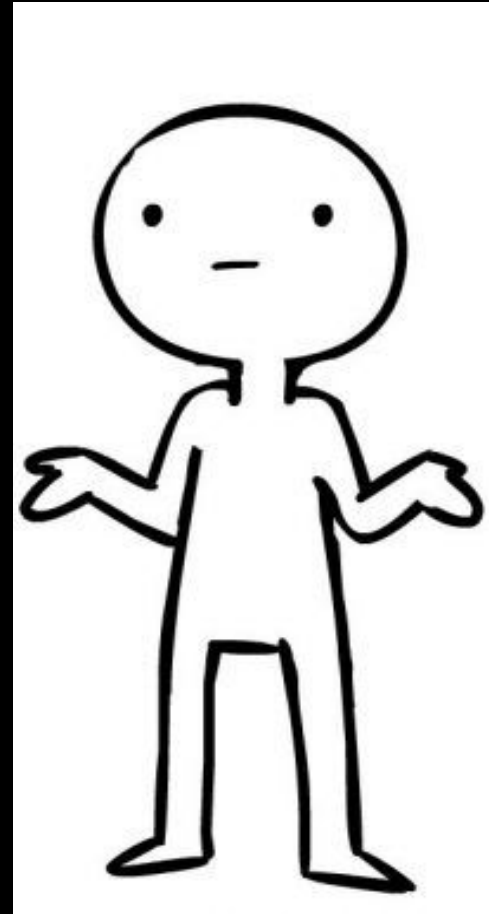
Transition Year is exactly as it sounds. Speak with Ms. Hanley or current TY students, to learn more.



Do they need a science or a language?

Career Teenager

- ▶ Interest Profiles
- ▶ Personality Traits
- ▶ Aptitudes
- ▶ Self Knowledge
- ▶ The Jobs Market



- ▶ The unpredictable

Options After School



Think of the kind of education that best suits their learning style



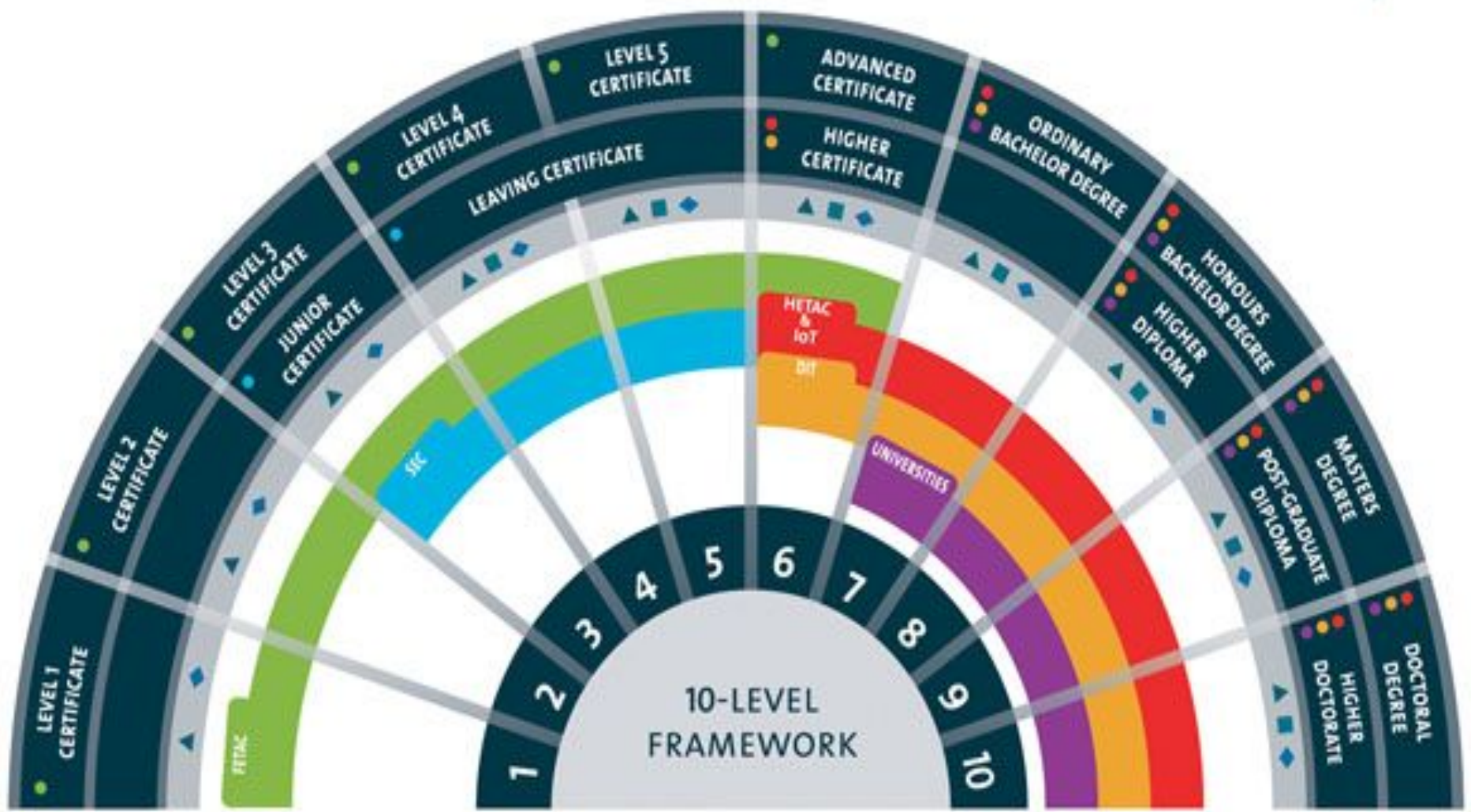
Looked at from the perspective of any aspiring student, for a programme of study to be successful it must be a good fit for their particular strengths and aptitudes.



Other Career progression apart from CAO

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS

Údarás Náisiúnta
Cáilíochtaí na hÉireann
National Qualifications
Authority of Ireland



FRAMEWORK CTIONS



Colleges

Level 8 Degree 3/4/5 years

Level 7 Ordinary Degree/Diploma 3 years

Level 6 Higher Certificate 2 years, CAO.

CIFET, Portlaoise College, FETCA,
Solas & the KWETB

Apprenticeships - **Level 3 - 10**

PLC Courses 1 year **Level 5 & 6**

Level 2,3,4 Traineeships weeks/months

LCA - Level 4 LC - Level 5

Right now - **Level 3** Junior Certificate



BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA
CHILL DARÁ AGUS CHILL MHANTÁIN
KILDARE AND WICKLOW
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD



GENERATION
APPRENTICESHIP
www.apprenticeship.ie

- ▶ Traditional 27 craft trades still there
- ▶ New Group launched in 2016 to address skills shortages and drop out from college in specific sectors - 73 - 48 from LC
- ▶ A combination of workplace learning, earning a salary and classroom/online learning suits many students, to meet the needs of industry and the labour market.
- ▶ A recognised qualification - Level 3 to Level 10

www.apprenticeship.ie

~~A man in a van~~

Leaving Certificate

2 Years

Some
Continuous
Assessment

Academic

Lots of
learning

Lots of
writing

Lots of
reading

You must fit
the exam

Success &
Achievement

DECISION PROCESS - in order

- ▶ Explored Subjects and Careers Portal Tools
- ▶ Aptitude Tests done & options explored
- ▶ Senior Cycle Subject Fair
 - ▶ Chat at home - skills, money, lifestyle, etc.
- ▶ Results from VSware
- ▶ Speak with their Teachers
- ▶ 1:1 Meeting with a Guidance Counsellor

nfennelly@athycollege.ie

crothwell@athycollege.ie

Subject Choice

- Irish)
- English) **3 Core**
- Maths) **Subjects**

□ ?

4 Options

□ ?

□ ?

□ ?

Optional Subjects

PRACTICAL

Construction,
Engineering

ARTISTIC

DCG,
Art & Design,
Music

Humanities

History, Geography,
French, Spanish

BUSINESS

Business

SCIENCE

Biology,
Chemistry

SOCIAL

Home Economics

Subject Content

Very important to know what is involved in each subject



www.careersportal.ie



Select courses and click on Leaving Cert Subjects



Course content, exam structure and grades 2023

Subjects with Assessments/Practicals

Subject	Work Submitted prior to L.C.	Submitted	%	Written Exam
Home Economics	Journal	Nov. L.C.	20%	80%
History	Research Project	April L.C.	20%	80%
Geography	Geographical Investigation	April L.C.	20%	80%

Subjects with Assessments/Practicals

Subject	Practical	When	%	Written Exam
Art	Practical Art Exam	May L.C.	62½%	37½%
Music	Performance	May L.C.	25% or 50% if elective	25% or 50%
Languages	Oral Exam Aural Exam	Easter	Oral 25% Aural 20%	55%

Subjects with Assessments/Practicals

Subject	Work Submitted prior to L.C.	Practical	%	Written Exam
Construction	Project 25%	May L.C. 25%	50%	50%
Engineering	Workshop Assessment 25%	May 25%.	50%	50%
DCG	Student Assignment Jan L.C. 40%		40%	60%

(Old) General Advice

If a student is not really sure what (s)he wants to do in the future:

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

one language

one science

one business

one practical.

This combination would allow access into a broad range of courses/careers.

Don't forget Basics

Remember

Students need to consider

- ▶ Strengths
- ▶ Interests
- ▶ Skills or aptitudes
- ▶ Plans for the future;
 - Do I plan to go to college?
 - What would I like to do?

Implications

THE NEW GRADING AND POINTS SCALE

▶ NEW GRADES	% MARKS	
▶ H1 / O1	90-100	
▶ H2 / O2	80<90	
▶ H3 / O3	70<80	
▶ H4 / O4	60<70	
▶ H5 / O5	50<60	
▶ H6 / O6	40<50	Ordinary pass
▶ H7 / O7	30<40	Higher pass
▶ H8 / O8	0<30	

Higher

GRADE POINTS

H1 100

H2 88

H3 77

H4 66

H5 56

H6 46

H7 37

H8 0

NEW
POINTS
SCALE

Notice the points
difference

Ordinary

GRADE POINTS

O1 56

O2 46

O3 37

O4 28

O5 20

O6 12

O7 0

O8 0

Points Calculation



Six best results are used to calculate your points



Points for courses vary from year to year as it is based on supply and demand.



40 places on a course and 500 apply.

Top 40 get a place, the 40th student dictates the points.

Honours Maths Bonus



25 bonus points will be awarded for higher level mathematics, at grades H6 and above, in a manner similar to the present scheme.



H7 which is 30<40 will be awarded 37 points only, no bonus of 25

Students must satisfy
3 requirements to
obtain a place on a
third level course.



Minimum Entry
Requirements



Specific Entry
Requirements (may also
involve interviews,
portfolios etc.)



Points

Minimum Entry Requirements



These are the basic grades a student needs to achieve in certain subjects in their Leaving Certificate



Different universities/colleges have different minimum entry requirements depending on if it is a Level 8 course or Level 6/7 course

Minimum Entry Requirements of major CAO Colleges

Institution	Minimum grades	Required subjects
NUI Colleges: UCD, NUIM, NUIG, UCC, RCSI, Shannon, St Angela's	2H5 + 4O6	O6 in English, Irish (unless exempt) & Modern Language (unless exempt)*. * Some exceptions
Trinity College Dublin	3H5 + 3O6	O6 in Maths, English & another Language
Dublin City University	2H5 + 4O6	O6 in Maths, English or Irish
University of Limerick	2H5 + 4O6	O6 in Maths, English & Irish or another Lang.
Technical University Dublin	2H5 + 4O6 (Level 8.) 5O6 (Level 6 & 7 .)	O6 in Maths, English or Irish
Old ITs	2H5 + 4O6 (Level 8) 5O6 (Level 6 & 7.)	O6 in Maths, English or Irish

Specific Entry Requirements



These are certain subjects and/or grades in subjects you must achieve in the Leaving Certificate in order to pursue a particular course e.g.



H4 in Biology for Human Health & Disease in TCD
or Genetics in UCC

H6 in a science for Athletic Therapy & Training DCU

Could be a H4... Food Science in UCC just wants a science.

H5 in Maths for many Engineering & some Computers courses

Colleges of NUI

Irish plus Modern Language??

UCD

UCC

Maynooth
University

NUI Galway

Shannon
College of Hotel
Management

St Angela's
College Sligo

RCSI

NCAD

- ▶ Required for UCD, UCC, University of Galway, Maynooth, RCSI, Shannon Hotel Mgt, St Angela's
- ▶ Not required for most Engineering, Science, Nursing Degrees in Universities
- ▶ MAYNOOTH: not required for Law or any Business or Accounting courses
- ▶ CADETSHIP in Defence Forces requires an 06 MFL
- ▶ A course with MFLs requires a H4 in a language
- ▶ IT's (LEVEL 6, 7 & 8) Do not generally require a MFL
- ▶ UL, DCU, TCD accepts Irish and/or MFL
- ▶ PRIMARY TEACHING/ NURSING DO NOT REQUIRE MFL
- ▶ **There's always a way around it.**

Modern Foreign Language

Biology

Human Health & Disease(TCD)

Genetics (UCC)

Beauty Therapy(PLC COURSES)

Advisable for Nursing

One Lab Science subject **NEEDED** for most
Science & Healthcare related courses

Chemistry

Human Nutrition Dietetics in TUD

Dentistry, Pharmacy & Medicine in UCC

Applied Chemistry degrees

Pharmacy in TCD

Veterinary Medicine

H5/H4 in Chemistry is required for all of the above courses

Specific Course Requirements

Course Entry Requirements can be accessed:

- In the college's prospectuses
- On the college's websites
- Directory of LC Entry Requirements
- www.qualifax.ie – Min. Subject Requirements

It is only when all course entry requirements are met that students are qualified to apply for a course.

Important Points



Art is generally not needed for Art and Design courses but advisable. A portfolio is however (CIFET).



For Business courses, Maths is generally a requirement rather than Business subjects.



Accounting: Only course with Accounting requirement - B. Comm in Accounting-NUIG (H4).



Most Music courses will have a practical and theory test as part of entry requirements so select Music.

(Old) General Advice

If a student is not really sure what (s)he wants to do in the future:

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

one language

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one practical.

This combination would allow access into a broad range of courses/careers.

▶ There's always a way around it.

Dos

&

Don'ts

- ▶ Choose subjects you enjoy
 - ▶ Choose subjects you are good at
 - ▶ Choose subjects you need for your chosen career
 - ▶ Keep your options open for the future by making a balanced choice now
 - ▶ Have questions for meeting with your Guidance Counsellor and subject teachers
- ▶ Choose a subject because your friend is taking it
 - ▶ Choose a subject just because you like or dislike the teacher
 - ▶ Choose a subject because you think it will be easy
 - ▶ Choose a new subject without finding out more about it
 - ▶ Make a decision at the last minute without thinking about it
 - ▶ Don't panic!

School must...

Have enough
Teachers to
cover the
classes

Limit Class Size

Have a
*substitute
choice*

Give the correct
time to learn

Communicate
with you

Students will be asked to select 5 subjects in order of preference. School will try to facilitate the first 4 choices but if not, your 5th choice will be used.

What's Next?

Subject Fair
Monday 11th

Students to
fill in
choices...

Timetabling
Software

Not everyone
will get top 4

Programme
decided
March 8th

Subjects
decided
March 22nd

Students will be asked to select 5 subjects in order of preference. School will try to facilitate the first 4 choices but if not, your 5th choice will be used.

Useful websites

www.careersportal.ie

www.qualifax.ie

www.cao.ie

www.apprenticeship.ie

www.examinations.ie

Exit Entry



Thank you
for being
here
tonight

Athy College

GUIDANCE
DEPARTMENT

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Crothwell@athycollege.ie



Leaving Certificate Applied

Programme Overview





Welcome

3rd Year students

What is the Leaving Certificate Applied?



- It is a distinct, self-contained two-year Leaving Certificate programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life
- It is examined through a continuous assessment format over 2 years.

Who would benefit most?

- Students who are not adequately catered for by other Leaving Certificate programmes
- Students who choose continuous assessment format.
- Students who like a very practical approach to learning

Attendance

MUST attend 90% of ALL classes every school day !

Eg. 5 classes every week - you can only miss 1 over 2 weeks !!!

Target not reached = No Credits

Work Experience

8 Weeks of Work Experience is included on the course.

Students must find their own work experience and write up a diary on it. They must return a supervisors report on their progress

Work Experience is an essential part of the course which can lead to full time/part time employment and networking.

Key Skills in LCA

ICT -Google Suite

Teamwork- Tasks and Assignments

Communication-Interviews & Presentations

Work Experience

CV & Job preparation

Business Partners- linking in with local
business in Athy

Curriculum

Vocational Preparation & Guidance

English & Communications

Mathematical Applications

Information Technology

Vocational Specialisms HCT or

Graphics & Construction

Arts Education & Music

Languages - Irish & Spanish

Leisure & Recreation

Social Education





Assessment -must have 90% attendance to achieve credits

3 Areas of assessment

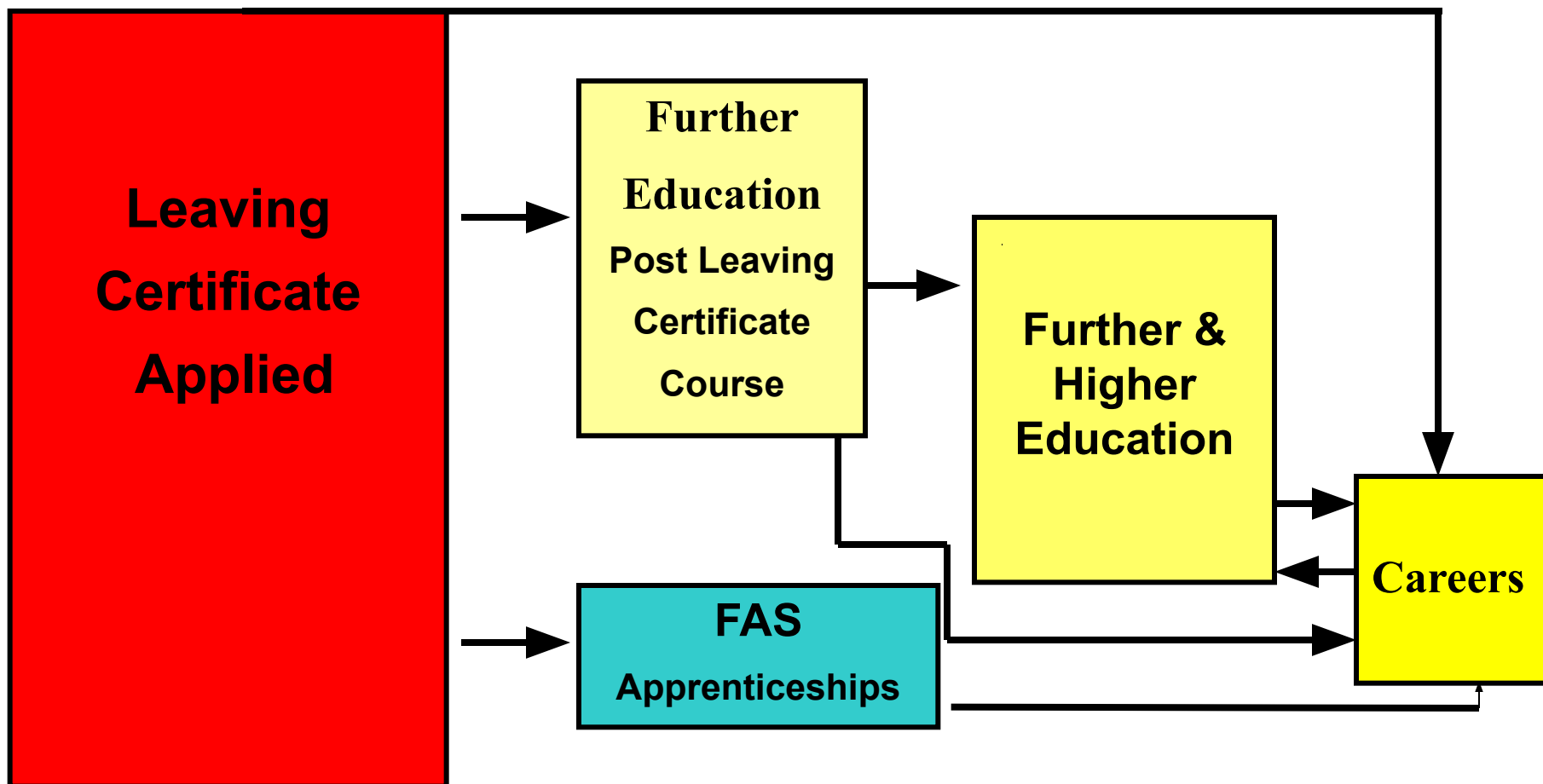
Satisfactory completion of Modules	62 credits (31%)
7 Student tasks	70 credits (35%)
Final examinations	68 credits (34%)
Total	200 credits (100%)

Certificate awarded at three levels:

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

Opening up New Options

The Leaving Certificate Applied Route Map



Some comments from our graduates



"It gave me a boost of confidence in myself and helped me communicate better with others"

"It taught me about hidden skills and talents I had and it set me on the right career path"

"I think it matures you a bit more and it really prepares you for when you leave school"

"You also get to learn more about yourself and what you're capable of doing."

I really loved the four sessions of work experience

"It was my foundation and helped me become what I am today"

TEAM BUILDING TRIPS FOR LCA STUDENTS ATHY COLLEGE



- Baltinglass Outdoor Education Centre

Other Activities

Fundraiser for St Vincent's hospital

Virtual driving experience

Bowling

Dragon boat racing

Discovery park

Visit to Library and tourist centre in Athy

Guest speakers

Summary

1. Attendance must be 90% for ALL subjects and classes everyday in order to be eligible for credits.

2. Assessment is on a continuous basis and therefore students must be willing to work in and attend **EVERY** class.

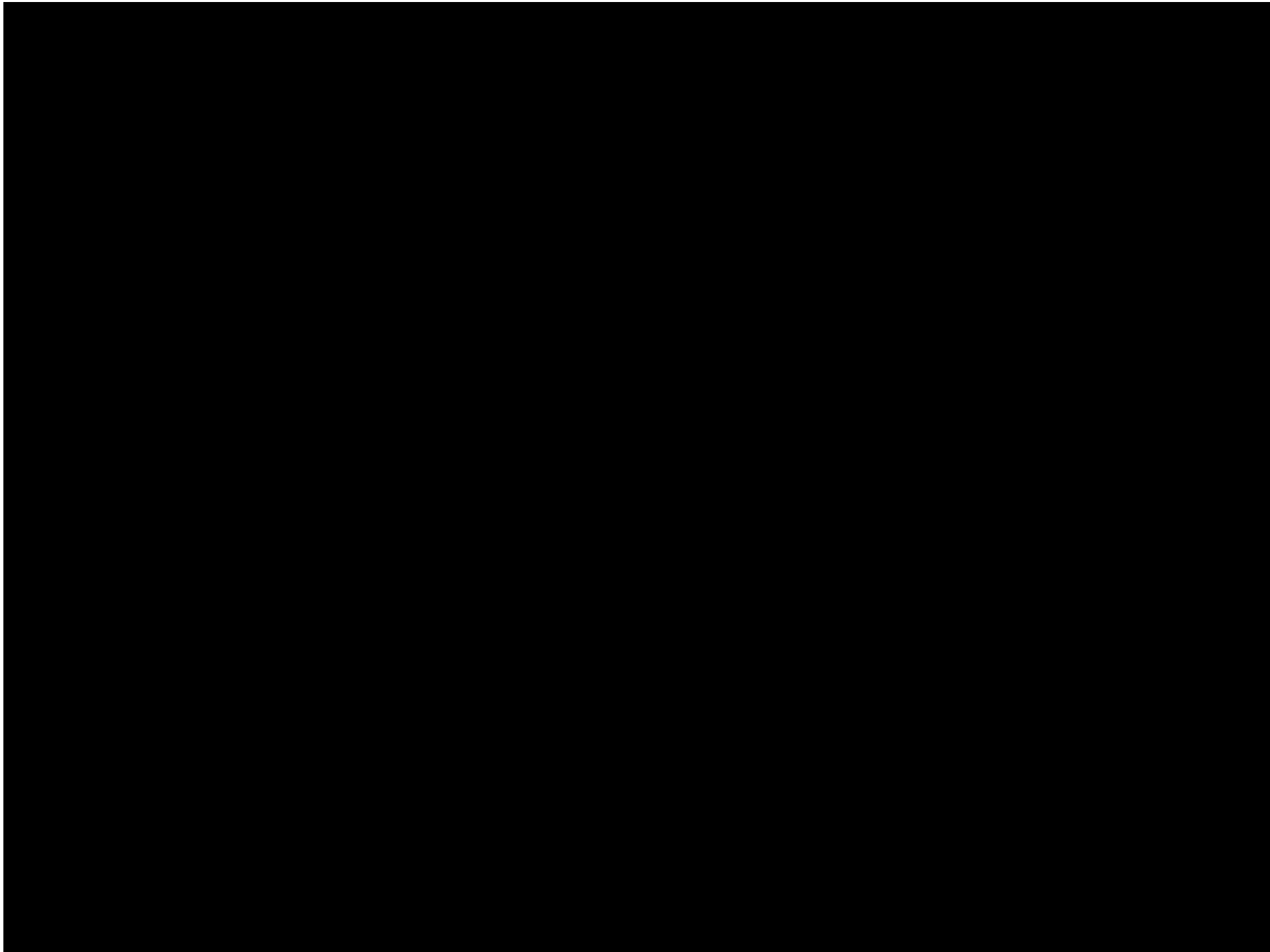
3. Work Experience forms an integral part of the course and must be completed.

4. Students will have completed approx 8 interviews before they leave school.

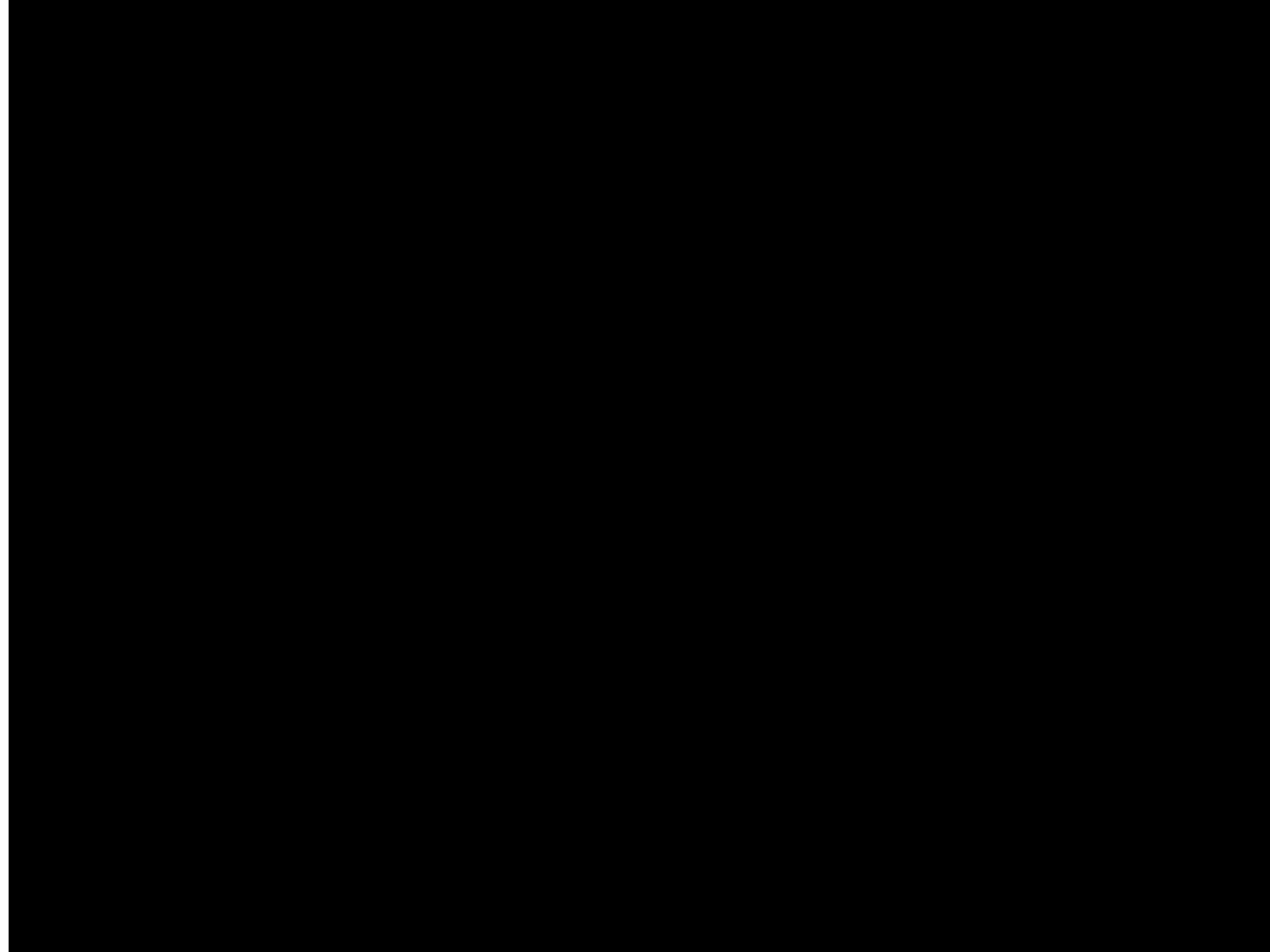
Computer Literacy skills will be enhanced.

5. Students enter the LCA programme through successful completion of an application form and an interview.



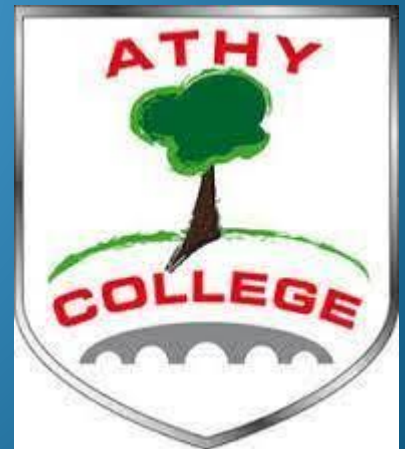


Past Student discussing how the
Leaving Cert Applied programme
helped her in her further
education studies



ATHY COLLEGE

Transition Year



Transition Year

- Transition Year is a one year school based programme between Junior and Senior Cycle.
- It is designed to act as a bridge between the two by facilitating the smooth transition from the more dependent learning of the Junior Cycle to the more **independent self-directed learning** required for the Senior Cycle

AIMS of Transition Year

Education for
MATURITY
with emphasis on
social awareness
& increased social
competence

Education
through experience of
ADULT &
WORKING LIFE
as a basis for
personal development &
maturity

Promotion of general,
technical and academic
***SKILLS* with an**
emphasis on
interdisciplinary and
self-directed
learning

Mission Statement of Transition Year

“To promote the personal, social, vocational, and educational development of students and to prepare them for their role as autonomous and participative members of society”

(DES, Transition Year Guidelines 1994/1995)

TY Programme

- *Learning led* not exam driven - this does **not** mean exams are removed completely from assessment practices
- *School based* – unique to each school
 - Student focused
 - Teachers' expertise is used
 - Individual syllabi written
 - Core subjects further developed
 - Full-Structured Timetable

TY Aims

- To **create new opportunities** for students to develop and mature.
- To encourage students to **take responsibility** and to discover more about their personal strengths.
- To **encourage students** to develop their self-confidence and independence.
- To **create learning opportunities** for students that extend beyond the traditional classroom.
- To develop students' **sense of social responsibility** and to help students make informed decisions about future education and careers.

BENEFITS OF TY

- Students more aware of strengths and weaknesses.
- More mature and take responsibility for their own learning and decision making
- More self-motivated and focused
- Empower students to be active leaders in the school and for the future
- Opens up to new ventures and possibilities

BENEFITS OF TY

- Practical insight into a potential career – career investigation/Work placement
- Enables students to broaden their horizon and sample new subjects
- Better decisions made in selecting college courses
- Develop better study skill techniques
- Able to plan assignments and meet deadlines – take responsibility for own learning

3 Way Split Rotational Subjects (10-week block)

- **Rotation 1** – up until October Midterm
- **Rotation 2** – up until February Midterm
- **Rotation 3** – up until end of the school year

	Group A	Group B	Group C
Band 1	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Band 2	French	German	Spanish
Band 3	Engineering	Home Economics	Music
Band 4	Art	DCG	Construction Studies
Band 5	Business	Geography	History

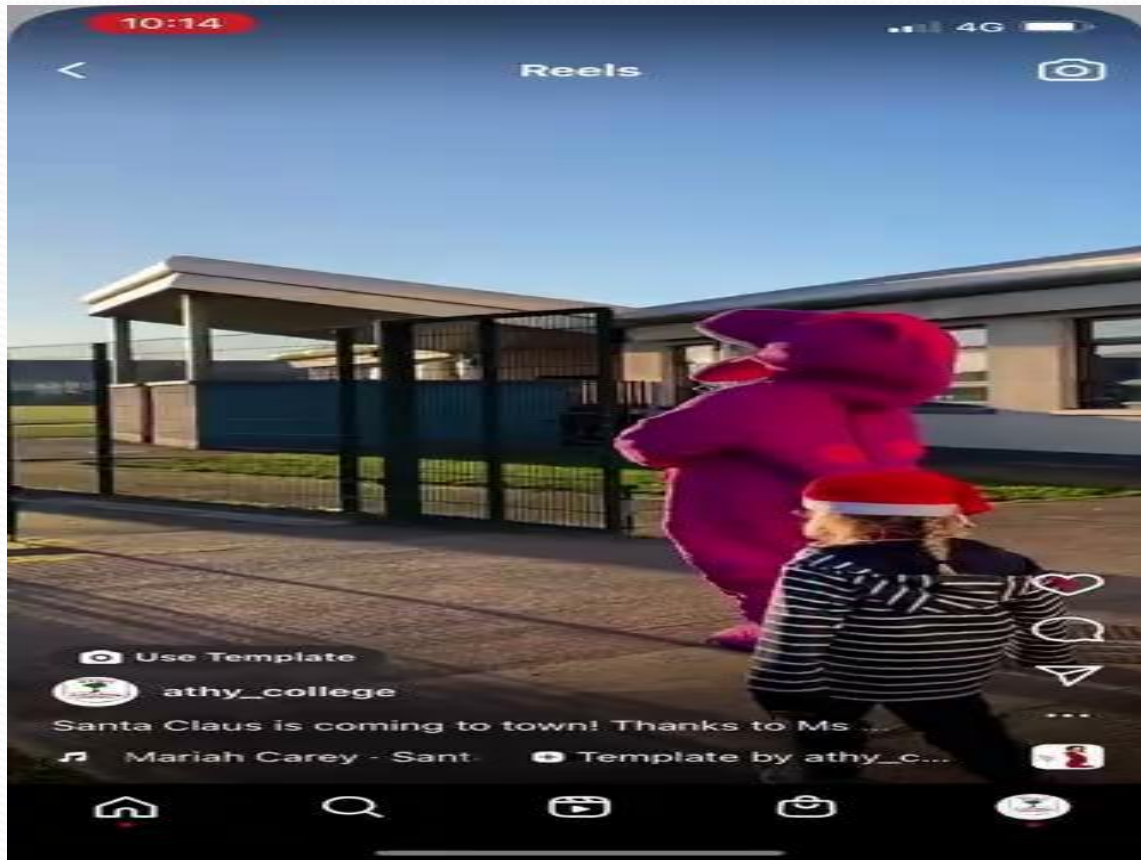
Key Skills developed during TY

- **Managing myself** – setting personal goals, Reflect on my own learning, use technology responsibly
- **Staying well** – healthy, active, confident,
- **Communicating**- express oneself, making presentations
- **Being creative** – explore options, use IT
- **Working with others** – learning with others, teamwork
- **Managing information and Thinking** – gather, research information, evaluate

Highlights of TY In Athy College

- Bonding trips e.g Baltinglass, Go Karting
- Subject Sampling for Senior Cycle
- Driver Education/Self Defence
- Overnight Activity Centre
- European Trip - Lake Garda 2023, Rhineland 2024
- Santa Experience
- Interview skills
- Working with the primary schools
- Film workshops
- Work Experience.

Santa Experience



Driver Education



What's next

Google form will be sent to all parents via text.

Inform us of the intended choice of pathway for next year.

All students will be asked to submit subject choices for LCE.