



A Guide for Incoming First Years to Choosing your Optional Subjects in Carndonagh Community School for September 2017



Introduction

The following subjects are compulsory in Carndonagh Community School and are not chosen by students - English, Geography, History, Irish (unless exempt), Maths, RE, and Science. There is a new subject for 2017 called Wellbeing, which includes subjects such as CSPE, SPHE, PE and Guidance. Then there are optional subjects.

This leaflet gives details about all the **optional** subjects only and is **designed to help you decide which of these optional subjects would be best for you**. As a general rule, the subjects you should choose should be ones that you think you will be **good at** and that you think you will **enjoy**.

The full list of **optional** subjects is Art, Business Studies, French, Home Economics, Metalwork, Music, Spanish, Technical Graphics, and Woodwork. These subjects are described on the following pages.

This booklet just gives information on the content of the subjects.

Instructions on how to fill in the First Year Application Form are sent separately. This booklet should be read several times with your parent(s) / guardian(s) before coming to a decision on your subjects.

For more information, there are four websites which you may find useful:

www.ncca.ie

www.curriculumonline.ie

www.qualifax.ie Click on **Students** then click on **Subject Choice**

www.careersportal.ie

If parents require more detailed information than the information contained in this short guide, or on these websites, they should contact one of the Guidance Counsellors in the Community School:

Clonmany Schools: Ms. Kelly
Carndonagh Schools: Mr. Harkin
Culdaff/Malin/other Schools: Ms. Diver

Art

This subject welcomes nurtures and enables students to learn and explore the creative world of Art, Craft & Design and reach their full potential.

Course Content

Drawing - i.e. drawing people, objects, analytical drawing projects

Painting and Mixed Media Still Life - drawing inanimate (not living) objects

Graphic Design - posters, advertising, stamps, book covers

Craftwork - batik, block printing, calligraphy, embroidery, fabric printing, weaving, puppetry, pottery

3D work - sculpture, wood carving, construction, modelling

Who would this subject suit?

This subject suits all levels and abilities, especially those with a creative outlook and imagination.

Type of Homework / Projects / Assignments

Drawing, painting, design, and craft and research.

Other points: - Students must be enthusiastic, interested and be able to apply themselves to projects when necessary. Natural ability alone is not enough. At Junior Certificate level, students develop their skills, explore their creative side and maximise their possibilities.

Career Note

Not all colleges require art as an essential subject for entry to art courses; however any student considering a career in art & design, graphics, industrial design, craftwork, etc., would be strongly advised to consider it for Junior Cert and also for Leaving Cert. It is also very useful for primary school teaching and apprenticeships. Please note that it is a strong advantage to have Leaving Cert. Art when trying to get into architecture. (More so than Technical Graphics.)

Progression after the Junior Certificate

To do Art, Craft & Design at Leaving Certificate Level, it is preferable that the student has studied Art for the Junior Certificate.

Business Studies

This subject looks at how businesses are set up, managed and financed. This subject has a very practical and modern approach to business - including setting up your own business.

Course Content

Budgeting (household / businesses), consumer rights, banking, cheques, accounts (final accounts, club accounts), running your own business, industrial relations, etc.

Who would this subject suit?

This subject would suit students who are interested in business and who show an interest in setting up their own business eventually and inventiveness. It is a basic requirement for anyone who wishes to work in a business environment.

Type of Homework/Projects/Assignments

Essays, multiple choice, projects, etc.

Other Points

Students must remember that to achieve high grades in the Junior Certificate, they will have to work hard.

Career Note

It is particularly **useful though not essential** for courses in accounting, advertising, banking, business, commerce, finance, management (incl. hotel management), marketing, and taxation. It would be a very useful subject for students who intend to set up their own business.

Progression after the Junior Certificate

To do Economics, Business or Accounting at Leaving Certificate Level, it would be beneficial for the student to choose Business for the Junior Certificate as it provides a basis for the three Leaving Cert subjects, however this is not essential.

French

French in Carndonagh Community School may be studied in addition to Spanish for the Junior Certificate.

Course Content

Students will learn to read, write, speak and understand French. Students will also learn about life and culture in France and in other French speaking countries.

Who would this subject suit?

This subject would suit students who have a love of languages and who are willing to work and apply themselves.

Type of Homework/Projects/Assignments

Using vocabulary correctly and appropriately with the help of dictionaries. Talking and writing about yourself and your experience of French. Reading French magazines, newspaper articles. Listening to audio tapes and watching DVDs. Looking at French websites.

Other Points

French is spoken as a first language by around 136 million people worldwide. A total of 500 million speak it as either a first, second, or foreign language. Moreover, some 200 million people learn French as a foreign language. French speaking communities are present in 56 countries and it is the official language of over 30 countries. With English, it is the second official language of the EU. French is one of the six official languages of the United Nations.

Career Note

Knowledge of a continental language is now highly desirable and graduates with degrees in computers and languages are very much in demand at the moment. In general, a D3 grade in the Leaving Certificate (Ordinary Level) in a foreign language is necessary for entry to the colleges in the National University of Ireland (NUI) - UCD, UCC, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, Pontifical University Maynooth and the Royal College of Surgeons. Though increasingly there are exceptions to this rule, particularly for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths degrees.

Progression after the Junior Certificate

To do French at Leaving Certificate Level, the student must do French for the Junior Certificate.

Home Economics

This subject is a combination of theory and practical elements - the practical elements are Food Studies and Textiles.

Course Content

The theory involves food and nutrition, consumer studies, health studies, social studies, home management, textiles and food and cookery skills. The **Practical Textiles** section involves needlework, sewing, and embroidery, with both the hand and with the sewing machine. The **Practical Food Studies** section looks at cooking and baking simple-to-prepare dishes.

Who would this subject suit?

This is a subject that can be very interesting and relevant for all students. Practical work is an essential element of this subject, however the course is mainly assessed on the basis of a written examination. At Higher Level, 50% of the marks are for course work (15% craft project, 35% cooking exam) and 50% are for a written exam. At Ordinary level, 60% of the marks are for course work, with 15% for a craft project and 45% for a cookery exam. The written exam at ordinary Level is worth 40%. A childcare or textiles project and a practical exam in food and culinary skills also form part of the overall assessment.

Type of Homework/Projects/Assignments

There are written homework assignments and class tests on a regular basis.

Other Points

Business and Science are two subjects that complement the subject.

Career Note

It is desirable though not a required subject, for further study in teacher training for Home Economics. It will also be useful in the following career areas: childcare, nursing, fashion, social care and tourism courses.

Progression after the Junior Certificate

To do Home Economics (Social and Scientific) at Leaving Certificate Level, the student should have done Home Economics for the Junior Certificate.

Materials Technology - Woodwork

Woodwork is a practical, hands-on subject, which gives students a good foundation in woodworking and graphical skills to enable students design and manufacture wooden items.

Course Content

The course is assessed in two parts: a Written Examination and a Project.

The Written Examination lasts 2 hours will be based on the written course content.

Project

The practical aspect of woodwork requires the candidate to design and make a small wooden Project. A project must be presented for assessment. The project work is carried out in class between November and April of 3rd year.

A folder of work must also be produced showing how the student developed their ideas for the project and how they planned to make it.

Who would this subject suit?

Woodwork would suit students who might like a subject with a large practical element. It is not necessary for students to study Technical Graphics for the Junior Cert, but obviously this subject would benefit the student. Students who like working with wood and using their hands would enjoy this subject.

Career Note

Woodwork would be of benefit to those hoping to study courses in Architecture, Civil Engineering, Quantity Surveying, Site Management. It would be particularly useful for work in the Building Trades, or for training as a Carpenter or a Woodwork Teacher.

Progression after the Junior Certificate

To do Construction Studies at Leaving Certificate level, a student should have done Woodwork for the Junior Certificate.

Materials Technology - Metalwork

Metalwork is a practical, hands-on subject, which gives students a good foundation in design and technology. Students learn traditional metalworking skills but also learn how to use modern engineering machinery such as computer controlled machinery (C.N.C.).

Course Content

There are three sections in the course: Practical Content, Project and Theory Content.

Practical Content (60%) - This is the practical section of the course, the topics covered in this section include: Bench Work; Machine Work such as Lathe Work, Milling Machine Work; Plastics Processing, Health and Safety.

Project (40%) - A project must be presented for assessment. The project work is carried out in class between November and April of 3rd year.

Theory Content - This is the theory section of the course, topics covered include: the Characteristics of Materials - Metals and Plastics; Health and Safety, etc.

Who would this subject suit?

Metalwork would suit students who might like a subject with a large practical element. Being good with your hands helps, however remember that 40% of the course is based on theory, which must be studied like any other subject. Technical Graphics would also be beneficial but is not necessary.

Career Note

Metalwork would be a useful subject if a student is considering studying technology, engineering, plastics, industrial design, engineering technology, or metalwork teaching (University of Limerick). It is also useful for many apprenticeships.

Progression after the Junior Certificate

Many metalwork students proceed to Engineering at Leaving Certificate level; however, while this is obviously of benefit, it is not absolutely necessary to have done Metalwork at Junior Cert to proceed to Engineering at Leaving Certificate.

Music

The music course is not entirely about classical music, but covers all types of music, including traditional music, film music, musicals, etc.

Course Content

The course has three main sections:

Composing Skills - music notes, and scales, time & key, signatures, rhythm and melody writing, backing chords, etc. are studied.

Performing Skills - this makes up 25% of the Junior Cert. Music exam.

Students can play an instrument for this practical exam or they can sing solo or in a group.

Listening Skills - All styles of music are covered, including orchestral works, film music, musicals, songs, and traditional music. Students study a selection of set and choice works and songs. Various aspects of these are examined including style, type of work, instruments played, mood, etc.

The exam consists of a written and listening exam lasting 2 hours and also a practical performance of voice or instrument.

Who would this subject suit?

It is not necessary for a student to be able to play an instrument to successfully complete the course, but it does require the student to have an aptitude for and interest in music. Being able to sing can be substituted for a musical instrument.

Type of Homework/Projects/Assignments

Harmony exercises and other written exercises can be given.

Career Note

Music at Leaving Certificate Higher Level is essential for some, but not all music degrees. Music would be a useful (but not essential) subject for students thinking of careers in media, multimedia, film, radio and television, dance, and generally in the entertainment, sports and leisure industries.

Progression after the Junior Certificate

To do Music at Leaving Certificate Level, the student must do Music for the Junior Certificate.

Spanish

Spanish may be studied in addition to French for the Junior Certificate.

Course Content

Students will learn to read, write, speak and understand Spanish. Students will also learn about life and culture in Spain and in other Spanish speaking countries.

Who would this subject suit?

This subject would suit students who have a love of languages and who are willing to work and apply themselves.

Type of Homework/Projects/Assignments

Using vocabulary correctly and appropriately with the help of dictionaries. Talking and writing about yourself and your experience of Spanish. Reading Spanish magazines, newspaper articles. Listening to tapes and videotapes.

Other Points

Spanish is already one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. It is the official language of more than 20 countries. It is now the second language of the USA! There are currently 400 million people speaking Spanish as a native language and a total of 500 million speakers worldwide. Spanish is the second most natively spoken language in the world, after Mandarin Chinese. Mexico contains the largest population of Spanish speakers. Spanish is one of the six official languages of the United Nations.

Career Note

Knowledge of a continental language is now highly desirable and graduates with degrees in computers and languages are very much in demand at the moment. Business dealings between Ireland and South America (in particular Argentina), where Spanish is the main language of communication are set to increase dramatically in the near future. In general, a D3 grade in the Leaving Certificate (Ordinary Level) in a foreign language is necessary for entry to the colleges in the National University of Ireland, though increasingly there are exceptions to this rule, particularly for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths degrees.

Technical Graphics

Technical Graphics is a problem-solving subject that challenges the student to use his or her imagination to solve problems graphically. The understanding of the different topics in the course is achieved by practising drawing different examples. Every problem needs the drawing rules applied in different ways so practice is the best means of learning. Students are encouraged to attempt questions before viewing answers.

Course Content

The course consists entirely of practical drawing skills, where students are taught how to use their skills to solve visual problems graphically on paper.

Who would this subject suit?

This subject would suit students who have a love of drawing and problem solving. Being able to draw neatly and clearly is essential. It would suit students who are practically and academically-minded.

Type of Homework/Projects/Assignments.

There is no theory in this subject, all the classes are practical and students will be drawing and drafting all of the time.

Career Note.

Technical Graphics is not essential for architecture, engineering, or quantity surveying but any student thinking of a career in these areas would benefit much from the skills learned. It is also desirable for courses in technology and town planning, and it would be very useful for any students interested in trades such as mechanic, electrician or plumber.

Progression after the Junior Certificate

To do Technical Drawing at Leaving Certificate Level, the student must do Technical Graphics for the Junior Certificate. It is a recommended subject for entry to the Woodwork and Engineering teacher-training courses at the University of Limerick.