

Optional Subjects available for Junior Cycle are:

1. Art
2. Business Studies
3. Engineering
4. French
5. Graphics
6. Home Economics
7. Music
8. Wood Technology
9. Animation & Coding (short courses – students do not sit a final exam in 3rd Year)

Students must choose 3 option subjects from the above list which they will take for the Junior Cycle.

How subjects change from Junior Cycle to Leaving Certificate:

<u>First Year/Junior Cycle</u>	→	<u>Leaving Certificate</u>
Visual Art	→	Art
Business Studies	→	Business / Accounting
Home Economics	→	Home Economics
Music	→	Music
Graphics	→	Design & Communication Graphics (DCG)
Engineering	→	Engineering
Wood Technology	→	Construction Studies
French	→	French
Animation & Coding	→	No follow on subject at Leaving Certificate

Optional Subjects available for Leaving Certificate are:

1. Accounting
2. Agriculture Science
3. Art
4. Biology
5. Business
6. Chemistry
7. Construction Studies
8. DCG (Design Communication & Graphics)
9. Engineering
10. French
11. Geography
12. History
13. Music
14. Physics

Junior Cycle Subject Options – **Sample Form**

Proposed subjects for pupils taking the Junior Cycle Examination. It is important when choosing subjects that all subjects **are ranked 1 – 5, number ‘1’ being the most preferred and ‘5’ the least preferred.**

Students cannot be guaranteed their top three preferences or two practical subjects.

**This is sample form – OFFICAL FORM will be given to students which will requires
Parent/guardian Signature**

NAME _____

Class _____

Subject	Order of Preference
Art	
Animation & Coding	
Business Studies	
Engineering	
French	
Graphics	
Home Economics	
Music	
Wood Technology	

Please note the following:

* French as a modern language is an essential entry requirement for most courses except Science and Engineering courses in N.U.I. (National University of Ireland) i.e. University College Dublin, University of Galway, Maynooth University, University College Cork and Royal College of Surgeons.

When making subject choices, you should consider the following points:

- Choose subjects you are good at;
- Choose subjects that you like / enjoy;
- Choose subjects which tie in with any career aspirations you might have at present, bearing in mind that such aspirations may change over time. It would be difficult to study subjects such as Art, Accounting, and Design & Communication Graphics (DCG) at higher level for Leaving Certificate without having a foundation in them at Junior Cycle level.
- In the longer term, beyond the core subjects of English, Irish and Maths, a third language (French) and a Science subject, there are relatively few demands in terms of essential subjects for jobs and Third Level courses.

Course outline

Visual Art at Junior Cycle promotes individuality and creativity. Each student is given the freedom to design their coursework to suit their own personal interests and hobbies. Visual Art provides the learner with a space within which it is safe to experiment, to fail and to learn. It gives students the capacity to understand and to express ideas, feelings and opinions. It promotes self-expression, independent thinking and problem-solving.

1st Year: Students are given an introduction to three strands of Art, Craft and Design. They develop new skills and experiment with a wide variety of materials.

2nd Year: Students develop their skills further and work in a project format to prepare for CBA's and final assessment project. The SEC issue CBA themes in Jan and students complete a CBA1. This is in a project format.

3rd Year: Sep-Dec: Students are issued with themes from the SEC and begin preparing for their final assessment by exploring themes and ideas and experimenting with materials. Dec-April: Students continue with the same theme and complete their "Final Assessment", this is project based.

Assessment and Examinations:

1st Year: On-going formative assessment.
Summative assessment in the form of Christmas and Summer examinations.

2nd Year: On-going formative assessment.
Summative assessment in the form of coursework and CBA1.

3rd Year: On-going formative assessment.
Summative assessment in the form of CBA 2 and Final Assessment Project.

There are no formal written examinations for Visual Art, all assessment is project based. The entire Junior Cycle grade is based on the "Final Assessment", a project which takes place from Dec-April of third year.

Skills developed

Visual Art

- Promotes self- expression
- Promotes independent thinking
- Requires discipline and patience
- Develops communication and analytical skills
- Develops planning and organisational skills
- Build cross-curricular links
- Sees beauty in the mundane

Business Studies

Course outline

Business Studies 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.

Skills developed

Personal Finance focuses on students making informed decisions to effectively and responsibly manage their financial resources. **Enterprise** encourages students to identify opportunities and develop an understanding of the financial, marketing and operational functions of an organisation and **Our Economy** enables students to understand the dynamic relationship between the local, national and international economic situation.

Assessment

Assessment in Junior Cycle is designed to give a broader picture of student learning. In addition to the on-going supportive feedback provided to progress student learning, there are a number of key assessment moments in second and third year.

Classroom Based Assessment (CBA)

There are 2 CBAs in Business studies, the first takes place at the end of second year and students have a four week period to complete this CBA. It is to be completed in groups of three to five students and there are three options available: Enterprise in Action, Economics in Action or Finance in Action.

The second CBA Takes place in third year over a three week period. This is an Individual presentation of 3 minute duration. This Provides an opportunity for students to apply their knowledge, skills and understanding to real life settings while also developing their communication skills.

Assessment Task

Following the second Classroom-Based Assessment in third year, students will complete a reflective Assessment Task. The Assessment Task is assessed by the State Examinations Commission (SEC) and It will be allocated 10% of the total marks for Business studies.

Examination

Worth 90% and takes place at the end of third year as normal, it is set and assessed by the SEC. The exam is offered at common level and has a duration of 2 hours.

Engineering

Course outline

This specification focuses on developing students' understanding of and skills in the application and impact of technologies in the world around them. This will be achieved through three inter-connected strands: Processes and principles, Design application and Mechatronics.

There are four elements to each strand - Engineering knowledge and awareness, Developing and manufacturing, Innovation and exploration, and Communicating.

Skills developed

The focus of Junior Cycle Engineering is goal-oriented problem solving for the manufacture of products, with emphasis on efficiency, accuracy, precision and a high-quality finish. This project-based approach requires students to develop knowledge of materials and processes.

Assessment

A dual approach to assessment increases the prominence given to Classroom-Based Assessment (CBA) and formative assessment. The assessment of Junior Cycle Engineering for the purposes of the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA), will comprise of two CBA's, a state certified grade comprised from a project and a final written exam.

Classroom Based Assessment

CBA 1 - Engineering in Action

Completed in term two of second year.	Completed by students either individually or in groups.
Investigation of applications, principles and processes of Engineering.	Develops knowledge, understanding, skills and values across any of the strands.

CBA 2 - Research and Development

Completed in term one of third year.
Students carry out research based on a theme that will be reflective of an aspect of the final project.

Examination

Element	Description	Weighting
Project	A project is completed after the second CBA in third year. The brief is set and marked by the State Examinations Commission (SEC).	70%
Exam	A final written examination takes place at the end of third year.	30%

French

Course outline

This is organised around **three** integrated strands:
Communicative Competence,
Language Awareness &
Socio-cultural Knowledge and Intercultural Awareness.

Skills developed

In all four competencies i.e.

1. Spoken Production
2. Spoken Interaction
3. Listening
4. Reading Comprehension
5. Written Production in the Target Language.

Assessment

This comprises

- (i) **Two Classroom-Based Assessments (CBA 1: Oral Communication, completed in Second Year and CBA 2: The Student Language Portfolio, completed in Third Year)**
- (ii) **Assessment Task** linked to CBA 2 and
- (iii) Final exam at the end of 3rd year. (90%)

Assessment Task

This is allocated 10% of the Junior Cycle MFL marks. It is related to the learning outcomes on which the CBA2 is based. Its key purpose is to encourage student reflection on the process of language learning.

Examination

Common level exam paper at the end of third year. It will include Reading Comprehension (35%), an aural component (35%) and Written Expression (20%). It will be up to two hours duration.

Graphics

Course outline

Graphics is divided into three strands: **2D graphics**, **3D graphics** and **Applied graphics**, and in these areas students will develop cognitive and practical skills such as graphical communication, spatial visualisation, creative problem solving and modelling, both on paper and through the use of Computer Aided Design (CAD/SolidWorks)

Skills developed Students will develop skills such as:

- Creativity - by using the design process to create ideas for products
- Technical drawing - by using drawing boards, paper and relevant equipment, technical hand drawing will be produced to communicate an idea
- Sketching - by learning how to sketch and shade, students will bring life to their ideas
- Solidworks - the CAD software that is used to produce electronic drawings of components

Assessment

The assessment of Graphics will consist of

- Project 30%
- Final Examination 70%

Classroom Based Assessment

CBA 1: Communicating through sketching. Students will use two-dimensional and three dimensional sketching techniques in response to a chosen theme

CBA 2: Graphical presentation skills. Students will conduct research and investigation based on a theme, and then present their findings graphically, either using sketching, technical drawings or CAD/SolidWorks

Project: Worth 30% The project is completed after the second CBA in third year. Students need to complete three outputs

Output 1: Responding to a theme based on CBA 2

Output 2: Dimensioned drawings

Output 3: Three-dimensional computer-aided design modelling

Home Economics

Course outline

Junior Cycle Home Economics develops the knowledge, understanding, skills and values necessary to achieve healthy and sustainable living for every person as an individual, and as a member of a family and society.

It is studied through three interconnected strands: Food, Health and Culinary Skills; Responsible Family Living and Textiles and Craft.

Skills developed

Junior cycle Home Economics focuses on the eight key skills:

- Being creative, - Being literate - Being numerate -Communicating
- Managing information and thinking -Managing myself -Staying well
- Working with others.

Assessment

Classroom Based Assessment

CBA 1: Students apply the design brief process in the making of a textile item for the individual or the home, completed in year 2.

CBA 2: Directly linked to the Practical Cooking exam. It will be based on a food literacy brief issued annually by the State Examinations Commission. Students will use the design brief process to demonstrate their culinary and creative skills and nutritional knowledge by researching, analysing and planning the requirements for the brief which is completed in year 3.

Examination

The final examination will consist of a practical cooking exam and a written exam. The practical exam and the written exam are both worth 50% of the marks available.

Music

Overview of Music

Junior Cycle Music encourages students to develop their imagination, individuality and personality. They are given the opportunity to engage with practical music making as a learning experience. They will collaborate and create, presenting their own ideas in a variety of formats, and be self-reflective and evaluate this process.

Course outline

Students will engage with the key skills of music making, music analysis/appraisal, performance and composing. They will learn to read and write music in notated form and will learn the art of instrumental performance and they will learn the skills of active music analysis through listening and appraising.

Skills developed

'Creating and Exploring' music, 'Participating and Music Making' and 'Appraising and Responding' to music are the three elements of focus in the music course.

Students will have the opportunity to explore their musical knowledge and skills, to develop an awareness of sounds for generating ideas and communicating feelings. They will investigate music from the past and present and its influence on culture. Students develop their ability and confidence through regular class based performance.

Assessment There are three parts to the assessment in music:

- The CBA in 2nd year which is a compositional portfolio.
- The CBA in 3rd year which is a programme note introducing the practical pieces.
- The practical performance exam in 3rd year, three separate pieces performed on any instrument/s or sung. This is worth 30% of the overall examination.

Assessment Task

The assessment task for music is the Practical Performance test at Easter time of 3rd Year. Three separate pieces are performed on any instrument or singing. Preparation for this will form part of music classes throughout the three year course.

Classroom Based Assessment

- The CBA in 2nd year which is a compositional portfolio.
- The CBA in 3rd year which is a programme note introducing the practical pieces.

Examination

The examination will be a listening exam focusing on their music analysis and appraisal skills developed over three years. This is worth 70% of the assessment.

Wood Technology

Course outline

In Wood Technology students will explore the natural and made world through the medium of wood. Wood science, practices and principles of working with wood and design are the core areas of learning. The sustainable use of wood and management of this natural resource is important as the world faces the challenges of the 21st century.

Skills developed

Learning in this subject will be active and student centred, with learners collaborating in the pursuit of knowledge and in the safe management of the Wood Technology classroom environment. Through the challenges posed by the design-based philosophy of the subject, students will develop the relevant knowledge, understanding, skills and values to bring ideas from conception to reality in a way that will allow them to be expressive, creative and innovative. Wood Technology helps students to become better problem solvers, one of the most sought after skills by employers today.

Assessment

Assessment in junior cycle Wood Technology will optimise the opportunity for students to become reflective and active participants in their learning and for teachers to support this. There are three key assessment junctures in second and third year.

Classroom Based Assessment:

CBA 1: Wood Science in our environment (Completed in term one of second year)

- Students will explore/research a wood science related issue within a local/global context and present their findings of the issue.

CBA 2: Student Self-Analysis and Evaluation (Completed in term one of third year)

- Students will conduct an analysis of their coursework and skills to date in Wood Technology

Project and Written Examination

On completion of the Classroom-Based Assessments, students undertake a project. The project is completed after the second CBA in third year. The project accounts for 70% of the final Junior Cycle grade with the written exam accounting for the other 30%.

Animation and Coding (Short Courses – No official State Exam at end of 3rd Year)

Overview

As part of the New Junior Cycle, schools have the flexibility to offer a new range of educational experiences in Junior Cycle. This new course offers two components; Animation and Coding.

Animation

Animation is the creation of short films from a series of still images. In this course we explore many different ways to create innovative stop-motion animations by using a variety of materials, processes and techniques. Students create and edit their content on state of the art i-pads which are specifically used for this course.

Strand 1: Introduction to Animation

Strand 2: Storyboarding and set building

Strand 3: Animation and collaboration

Strand 4: Our Animation Oscars

Skills developed

- Promotes self-expression
- Promotes independent thinking
- Requires discipline and patience
- Develops planning and organisational skills
- Build cross-curricular links
- Develops ICT skills

Assessment

Junior Cycle short courses have one classroom-based assessment, for “Animation” in third year

Coding

Course outline

Coding is literally the language computers speak! In this course we aim to develop our student's ability to problem solve and eventually equip students to design, write and test code through the development of programs, apps and games.

Skills developed

The specification for this junior cycle short course in coding focuses on developing students' problem-solving skills through three inter-connected strands:

- Computer science introduction,
- Let's get connected and
- Coding at the next level.

Assessment

Junior Cycle short courses have one classroom-based assessment, for “coding” and animation this will take place in the third year.