

# Senior Cycle Pathways

Coolmine Community School  
Guidance Team

# Purpose of Presentation

- ▶ Raise awareness of the importance of picking the correct subjects
- ▶ Understand the Guidance Process around Subject Choice
- ▶ Give information on subject requirements for further study after Leaving Cert
- ▶ Give guidance on how to decide which subjects to choose
- ▶ Ultimately the school wants to ensure that each pupil fulfils their potential and good subject choice assists in this

# Guidance around Subject Choice

- ▶ **Week 1:** Student received CAT4 Feedback and had individual Consultation around Subject Choice with a Member of Guidance Team.
- ▶ Caoimhnóirí did interest testing and exploration of interests/skills/aptitudes in class
- ▶ **Week 2:** Caoimhnóirí facilitate a class teaching students how to research Leaving Cert Subjects and how to evaluate them based on their personal interests and ability
- ▶ **Week 3:** Options Night for parents. Class visits will occur in groups next week to check in and answer any questions.
- ▶ **Week 4:** 12 March: Subject Fair

# What *CAT 4* tells you

- ▶ The *CAT 4* test assesses:
- ▶ a student's ability to reason with different kinds of material
- ▶ provides information that is highly valuable for both understanding a student's strengths and also areas that a student may need assistance with regarding learning
- ▶ *CAT 4* is made up of four batteries (or tests)



Verbal Reasoning



assesses reasoning ability with words

Quantitative  
(Numerical Reasoning)



assesses reasoning with numbers.

Non Verbal  
Reasoning



assesses the ability to think and reason with nonverbal material

Spatial Ability



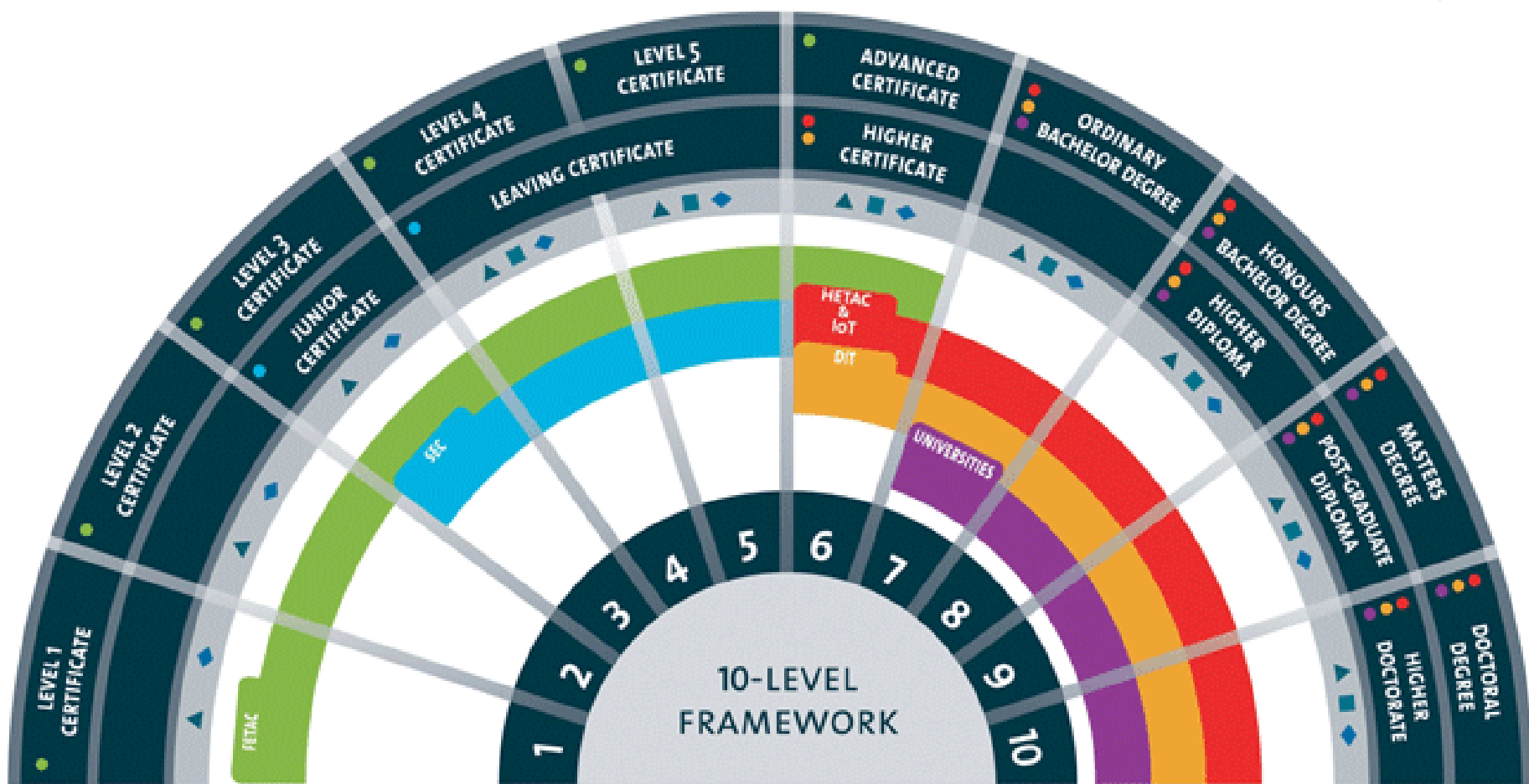
assesses the ability to think in spatial terms

# Choosing Subjects

- Choose the subjects you enjoy
- Use the information from your CATs and Teacher Feedback.
- Discuss with your Guidance Counsellor
- Always make your choices based on you
- Think of your Future Pathways

# NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS

Údarás Náisiúnta  
Cáilíochtaí na hÉireann  
National Qualifications  
Authority of Ireland



# The Points System

- ▶ Only when the Minimum and Specific Entry Requirements have been met do points accumulated in the Leaving Cert come into play to decide who gets a place on a course
- ▶ The best six results in one sitting of the Leaving Cert Exam will be counted for points purposes
- ▶ Though Minimum Entry Requirements may state you need Irish or English etc., that does not mean you must count it as one of the 6 for points



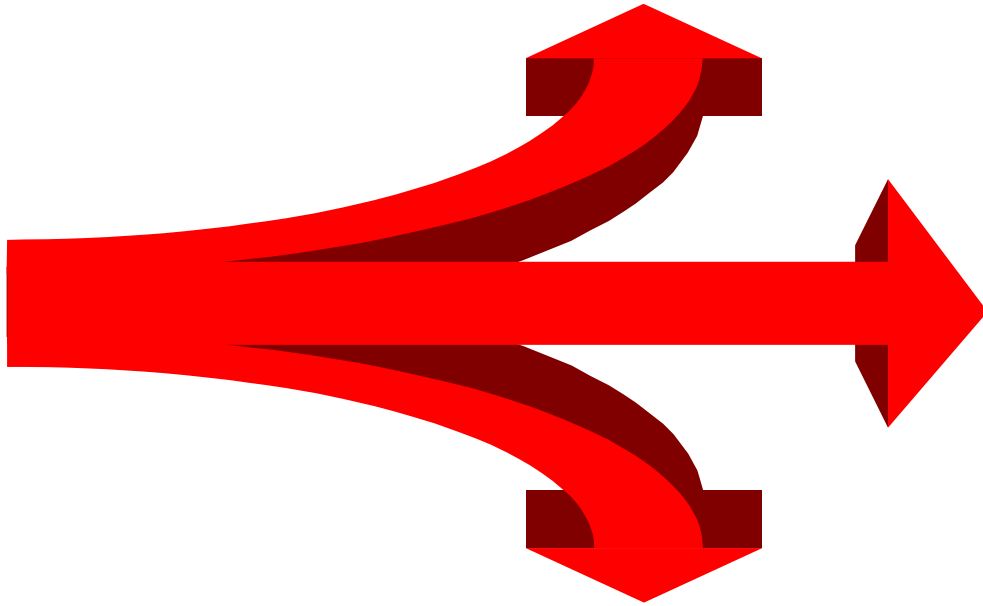
## New Grades and Common Points Scale for Leaving Certificate 2017

Grade (%)	Points	Grade (%)	Points
H1 (90-100)	100		
H2 (80<90)	88		
H3 (70<80)	77		
H4 (60<70)	66		
H5 (50<60)	56	O1 (90-100)	56
H6 (40<50)	46	O2 (80<90)	46
H7 (30<40)	37	O3 (70<80)	37
H8 (0<30)	0	O4 (60<70)	28
		O5 (50<60)	20
		O6 (40<50)	12
		O7 (30<40)	0
		O8 (0<30)	0

# Entry Requirements

- ▶ When choosing Leaving Certificate subjects great care must be taken as the choices of subjects made now may determine 3rd level and career options in 2 years time.
- ▶ Students can make the mistake when choosing their subjects of not picking subjects they may specifically need later
- ▶ Good subject choice allows students to keep options open when other factors have been taken into account such as interest, ability, likelihood of wanting to pursue a course after school
- ▶ Regardless of how many points a student gets in the LC, they will be ineligible to even apply for a course if they have not met it's "Course Entry Requirements"

# Entry to 3<sup>rd</sup> level 3 Factors



Minimum Entry  
Requirements of  
the  
College/University

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

Points(best six  
subjects)

# Getting In

- ▶ SECURING A PLACE ON ONE OF THE COLLEGE COURSES THROUGH THE CAO (CENTRAL APPLICATIONS OFFICE) DEPENDS ON STUDENTS
- ▶ Satisfying the MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS for their chosen course and any SPECIFIC ENTRY SUBJECTS and LEVELS
- ▶ *(A student with 625 points -maximum points in the Leaving Cert - but no science subject will not get into Medicine).*
- ▶ AS WELL AS...
- ▶ POINTS in Leaving Cert ie. Total Points from students best 6 subject results (Max. 625)

## Minimum Entry Requirements

- ▶ There are Minimum Entry Requirements to be met for all HEIs.
- ▶ **Most of these revolve around the core subjects of Irish, English, Maths and a modern language**
- ▶ Even within HEIs these differ, so it is important to check them out on the college websites
- ▶ For example, generally for universities and honours degrees elsewhere, you need 2H5's and at least 4O6's to usually include Irish, English, Maths and another language. (for some NUI courses)

## PARTICULAR SUBJECTS AND MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ *IRISH*
- ▶ Higher level for Primary Teaching, H4 is requirement
- ▶ NUI COLLEGES (UCD, Maynooth University, UCC, UCG, Royal College of Surgeons, NCAD are some examples)
- ▶ Exemptions apply for those with DES exemptions and sometimes those born outside the country

## PARTICULAR SUBJECTS AND MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ *ENGLISH*
- ▶ MEDIA STUDIES NUIM (HL)
- ▶ CLINICAL SPEECH AND LANGUAGE STUDIES TCD (HL) IN ENGLISH OR ANOTHER LANGUAGE
- ▶ HIGHER LEVEL ENGLISH IS REQUIRED FOR JOURNALISM DCU AND UL (HL)
- ▶ MOST OTHER COURSES REQUIRE PASS ENGLISH AT ORDINARY LEVEL

# PARTICULAR SUBJECTS AND MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ *MATHEMATICS*
- ▶ HIGHER LEVEL REQUIRED FOR MOST LEVEL 8 ENGINEERING, SOME COMPUTER SCIENCE (TCD and NUIM)
- ▶ ORDINARY LEVEL FOR MOST OTHER COURSES ON CAO
- ▶ FOUNDATION LEVEL- ACCEPTABLE FOR SOME CAO COURSES WITH NO MATHS REQUIREMENT (Art and Design etc) Some Level 7 courses in IT's
- ▶ PLC COURSES
- ▶ NO MATHS REQUIREMENT FOR SOME ARTS AND LAW DEGREES
- ▶ (NUI COLLEGES)
- ▶ SOME ART COURSES DO NOT REQUIRE IT



- ▶ **SUBJECT REQUIRED FOR ENTRY INTO CERTAIN COURSES IN NUI COLLEGES, EG ARTS, EDUCATION, MEDIA, SOCIAL SCIENCE, BUSINESS, LAW, ACCOUNTING, ARCHITECTURE AND MANY MORE**
- ▶ **NOT REQUIRED FOR NURSING IN ANY OF THE UNIVERSITIES.**
- ▶ **NOT REQUIRED FOR ENGINEERING AND MAJORITY OF SCIENCE DEGREES**
- ▶ **IT's (LEVEL 6 and 7) DO NOT GENERALLY REQUIRE LANGUAGE**

# THIRD LANGUAGE

## Specific Entry Requirements

- ▶ Some 3<sup>rd</sup> level courses demand that you not only meet Minimum Entry Requirements, but that you also meet Specific Entry Requirements
- ▶ They usually are central to the course content.
- ▶ Specific Entry Requirements generally apply to language courses, science courses, engineering courses, and medicine and health courses
- ▶ An example is Nutrition and Dietetics in TU Dublin, H4 in Chemistry

# SCIENCE SUBJECTS

ONE LABORATORY SCIENCE SUBJECT  
NEEDED FOR MOST  
SCIENCE/HEALTHCARE RELATED  
COURSES

ENGINEERING IN UCD REQUIRE ONE  
SCIENCE SUBJECT

- ▶ *Biology*
- ▶ HUMAN HEALTH AND DISEASE (TCD)
- ▶ GENETICS (UCC)
- ▶ BEAUTY THERAPY (PLC COURSES)
- ▶ ADVISABLE FOR NURSING
- ▶ *CHEMISTRY*
- ▶ DENTISTRY (UCC)
- ▶ HUMAN NUTRITION AND DIETETICS (DIT)
- ▶ MEDICINE (UCC)
- ▶ PHARMACY (UCC and TCD)
- ▶ VETERINARY MEDICINE (UCD)
- ▶ Geography is now accepted in UCD and TCD as Science Subject

# OTHER SUBJECTS

## SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- BUSINESS, ACCOUNTING, HOME ECONOMICS, HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, DCG, ENGINEERING, CONSTRUCTION, RELIGION, APPLIED MATHS, AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE - Generally NOT REQUIRED for basic ENTRY for most courses BUT DESIRABLE if intending to study at Third Level
- CHECK THEM OUT on [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) (useful tools - minimum entry -subjects)
- ART AND MUSIC- Again generally NOT REQUIRED as basic entry requirement even if intending to study at Third Level BUT PORTFOLIO (ART) or COMPETENCE TEST (MUSIC) required for entry to Third Level Courses

# QUALIFAX

- ▶ EXCELLENT FEATURE ,  
MINIMUM SUBJECT  
REQUIREMENT
- ▶ USE TO CHECK BEFORE  
DROPPING A SUBJECT
- ▶ USE QUALIFAX TO CHECK  
POINTS, SUBJECT  
REQUIREMENTS AND ENTRY  
REQUIREMENTS
- ▶ [https://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com\\_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=77](https://www.qualifax.ie/index.php?option=com_wrapper&view=wrapper&Itemid=77)
- ▶ Use this link to check a  
subject requirement!

# Careers Portal

- ▶ Fantastic website. Students can create their own account.
- ▶ Interest Tests
- ▶ Course Descriptions
- ▶ Excellent information around Leaving Cert Subjects

[https://careersportal.ie/school/subject\\_explorer.php?parent=2034&ed\\_sub\\_cat\\_id=391&menu\\_parent\\_id=](https://careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer.php?parent=2034&ed_sub_cat_id=391&menu_parent_id=)

# Deep Dive!

- ▶ [Senior Cycle Subjects | Curriculum Online](#)
- ▶ Have a look at the syllabus in detail!
  
- ▶ [Papers | Studyclix](#)
- ▶ Look at Past Exam Papers
  
- ▶ Research to make informed choices!

# Further Information

- ▶ Presentation will be on School Website
- ▶ Enquiries can be made to Kathy Maher, [kmaher@coolminecs.ie](mailto:kmaher@coolminecs.ie) or 01 8214141



# Selecting Your Options

Fergal Walsh  
Deputy Principal

27/02/25

In 5<sup>th</sup> Year students study 5 core subjects:

English

Religion

Irish

PE

Maths

5<sup>th</sup> Year students choose 4 out of the following  
22 subjects for their Leaving Cert

<i>Biology</i>	<i>History</i>	<i>Japanese</i>	<i>Chemistry</i>	<i>Geography</i>	<i>PE</i>
<i>Physics</i>	<i>Classics</i>	<i>Computer Science</i>	<i>Accounting</i>	<i>DCG</i>	<i>Business</i>
<i>Const. St.</i>	<i>Economics</i>	<i>Engineering</i>	<i>Home Ec</i>	<i>French</i>	<i>Art</i>
	<i>German</i>	<i>Music</i>	<i>Spanish</i>	<i>Polish</i>	

# Fifth Year

## *Starting point*

*All students have studied:*

- ▶ *History*
- ▶ *Geography*
- ▶ *3 Option subjects*

*If you have studied Bus Studies for Junior Cycle this leads on to:*

- ▶ *Accounting*
- ▶ *Business*
- ▶ *Economics*

# Fifth Year

*If you have studied Science this leads on to:*

- ▶ *Biology*
- ▶ *Chemistry*
- ▶ *Physics*

# Before making the choice

- ▶ Pick a subject that you like
- ▶ Pick a subject that you are good at
- ▶ Do not choose a subject because a friend is doing it
- ▶ Do not pick a subject because you like the teacher
- ▶ Do not drop a subject because you do not like a teacher

# Seek Advice

- ▶ From parents
- ▶ From teachers
- ▶ From tutors
- ▶ From Ms. Maher
- ▶ From brothers/sisters
- ▶ From other students

## Access to subjects

- ▶ We have a full and free choice of subjects
- ▶ The number of classes in each subject depends on how many students choose that subject



# Failure to get chosen Subject

There are restrictions on class sizes:

Practical subjects 24 students

Home Economics 20 students

Other subjects 30 students

Sometimes subjects clash (they are on at the same time)

- ▶ We ask students to pick 7 subjects
- ▶ We try to provide each student with their first 4 options
- ▶ If this is not possible, I contact home, explain the situation and try to offer the next available choice to the student
- ▶ Deadline for the form is **Wed Mar 19th**

# TY or LCA

Students who wish to apply for TY or LCA must do so through the section at the bottom of the option form

# *Finally*

- You can make changes to your choice of Options:
  - By dropping down to my office or by emailing me at [fwalsh@coolminecs.ie](mailto:fwalsh@coolminecs.ie)
  - In September 2025 by dropping down to my office.



# Transition Year 2025/26

Coolmine Community School



TY offers time, space and autonomy to create enjoyable and meaningful educational experiences that support students in senior cycle.

It can be a bridge to opening up a broader range of possibilities and pathways.

The programme enables young people to develop a greater capacity to respond to uncertainty, manage complexity, nurture personal interests and become agents of positive, ethical change in society.



## Why TY?

TY builds a broad and solid foundation for students to progress from their previous experiences into the remainder of senior cycle.

# Student Dimensions:

The four **Student Dimensions** are the key foundations upon which TY programmes are designed. They describe how students can develop in TY and the experiences that can support this development.

## 1. Personal Growth

Students mature socially and emotionally over the course of the year, developing in areas that include health and wellbeing, autonomy, identity, empathy and leadership.

## 3. Civic and Community Engagement

Students make a positive difference in their schools, communities and society. They learn to act on their responsibilities and exercise their rights as local, national and global citizens in ethical and sustainable ways.

## 2. Being a Learner

Building on their previous experiences, students begin to develop as senior cycle students, embracing opportunities and strategies for learning that work best for the student now and into the future.

## 4. Career Exploration

Students explore diverse future pathways in a guided and coordinated manner, gaining first-hand workplace experience, and developing career-related competencies

# Sample Subjects and Modules on offer

We offer a wide diverse range of subjects on our New Transition Year Programme. Some samples include:

Enterprise	Career Investigation	Leadership LIFT/RP Connect	GAA Future Leaders Programme	Gaisce	Barista Training
Junk Couture	Japanese	Politics and Society	Art	Dance	Drivers Education
Know Your Dublin	Polish	Social Justice	Graphics	First Aid	Music
Forensic Science	MFL	Debating	Accounting	Aikido	SPHE
Horticulture	Film Studies	PE	Computer Science	Work Experience	Classical Studies



# Our Programme

Cost: €500-      Deposit- May 2025  
Balance- August 2025

- Transport Costs- Private Bus to different events
- Reach Programme
- Barista Training
- Induction Trip to Donegal- August
- Trips selected during the year
- TY Journal
- Varies opportunities that arise during the year eg: Aikido, SKY, TY Showcase etc....

# Career Investigation:

Work Experience is an integral part of the TY Programme.

Students should choose their work placements over the summer and have them contacted and secured before they start TY in August 2025. Parents/Guardians play a role in assisting students with finding their work placements.

## General Career Investigation Work Experience:

- OCTOBER 2025- Monday 13th to Friday 17th
- DECEMBER 2025 - Monday 1ST to Friday 5th
- MARCH 2026- Monday 9th to Friday 13t

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## Community Based Work Experience:

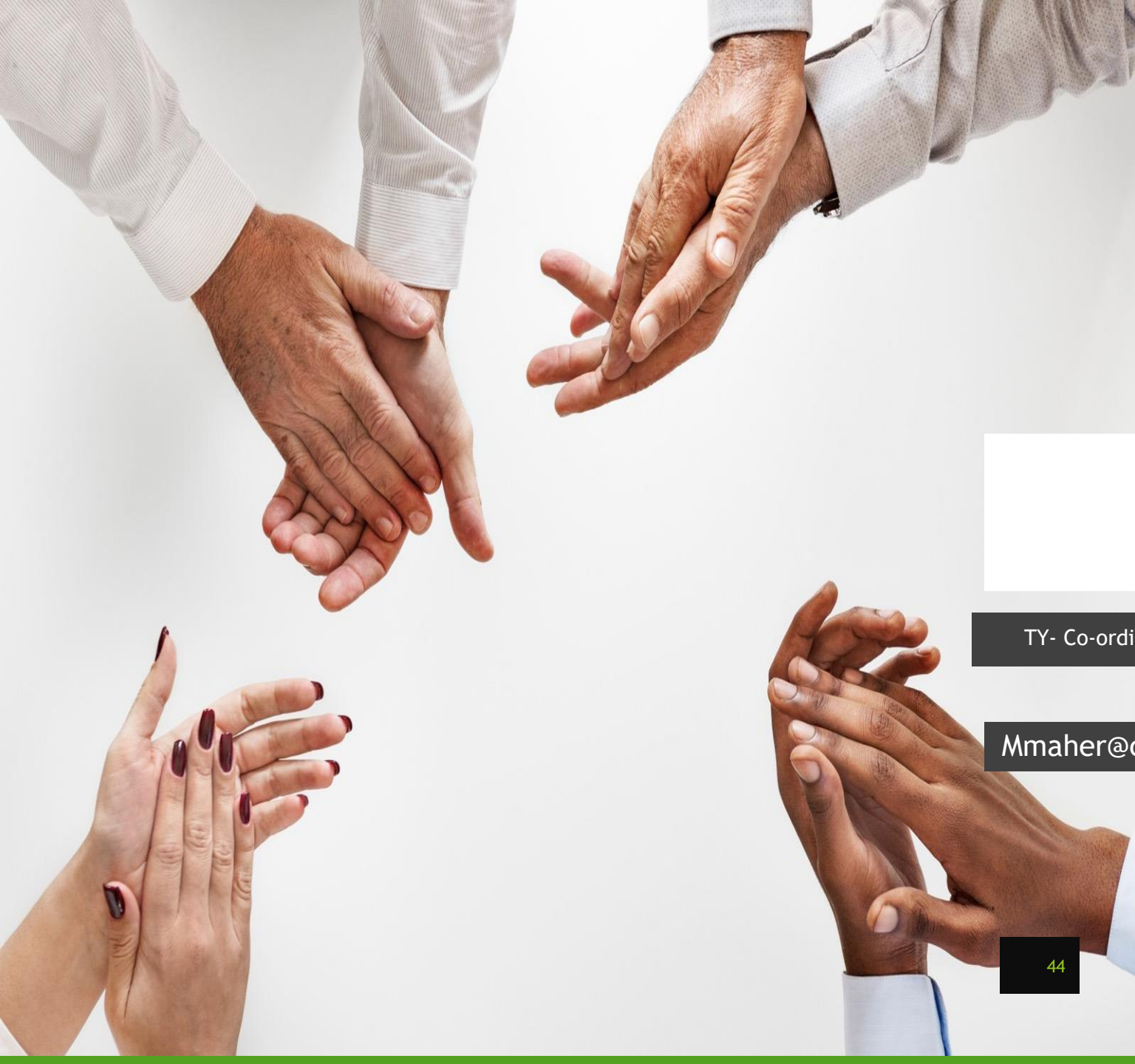
- JANUARY 2026- Monday 26th to Friday 30th

# Optional TY International Trip to Barcelona



May 2026

- Approx €700- paid in installments throughout the year.



# Thank

TY- Co-ordinator- Mary Maher



[Mmaher@coolminecs.ie](mailto:Mmaher@coolminecs.ie)

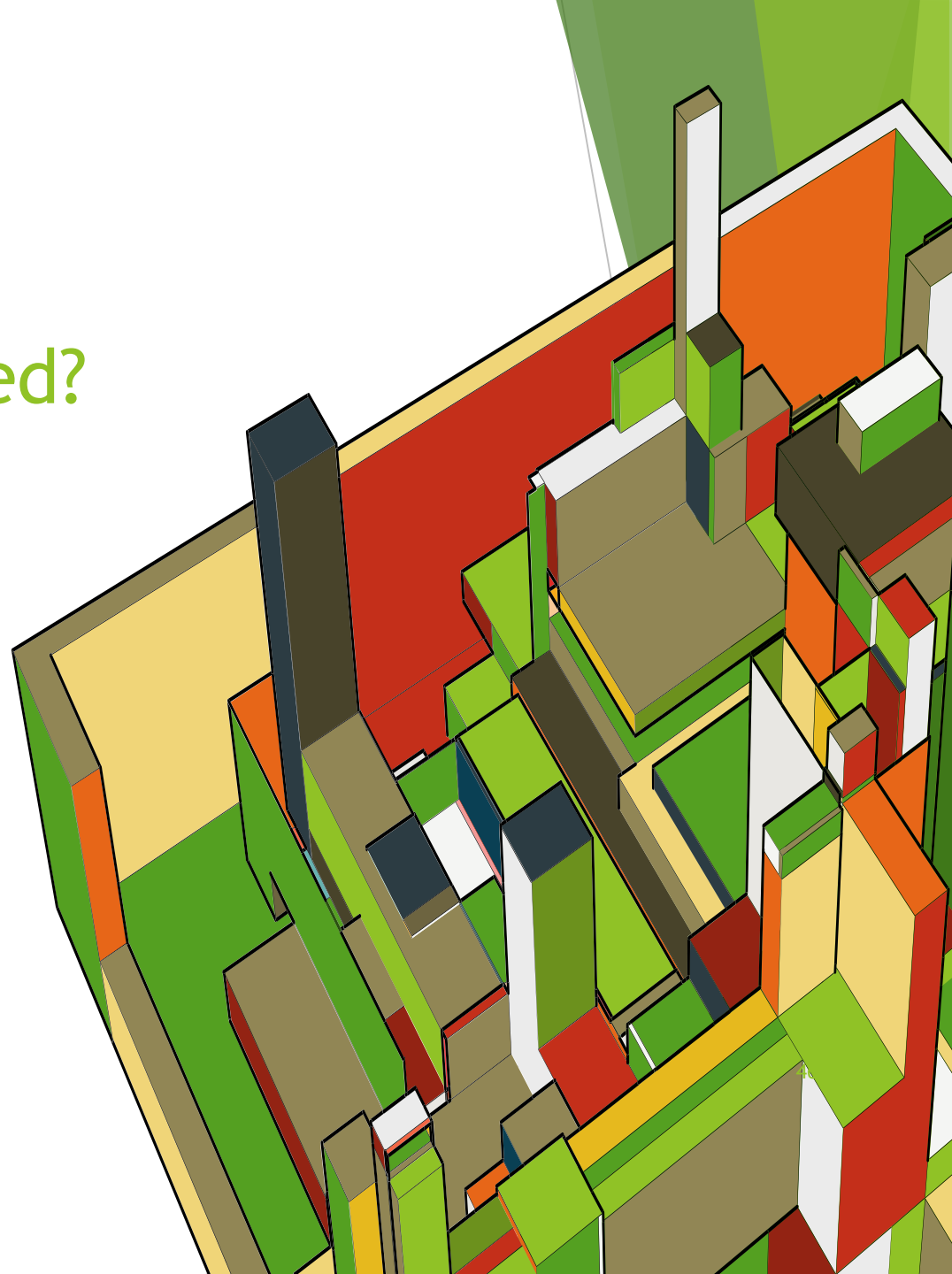
# Leaving Certificate Applied

Coolmine Community School

2025/2026

# What is Leaving certificate applied?

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a two-year Leaving Certificate available to students who wish to follow a practical programme with a strong practical and vocational emphasis.



# What is different about the Leaving Certificate Applied?

## Practical

It is a practical Leaving Certificate programme which places particular emphasis on preparation for the world of work and lifelong learning.

## Work Experience

Work Experience is a significant component of the programme, and students get to sample a range of jobs and get first-hand experience of the world of work.  
-Learning experiences are active and practical.

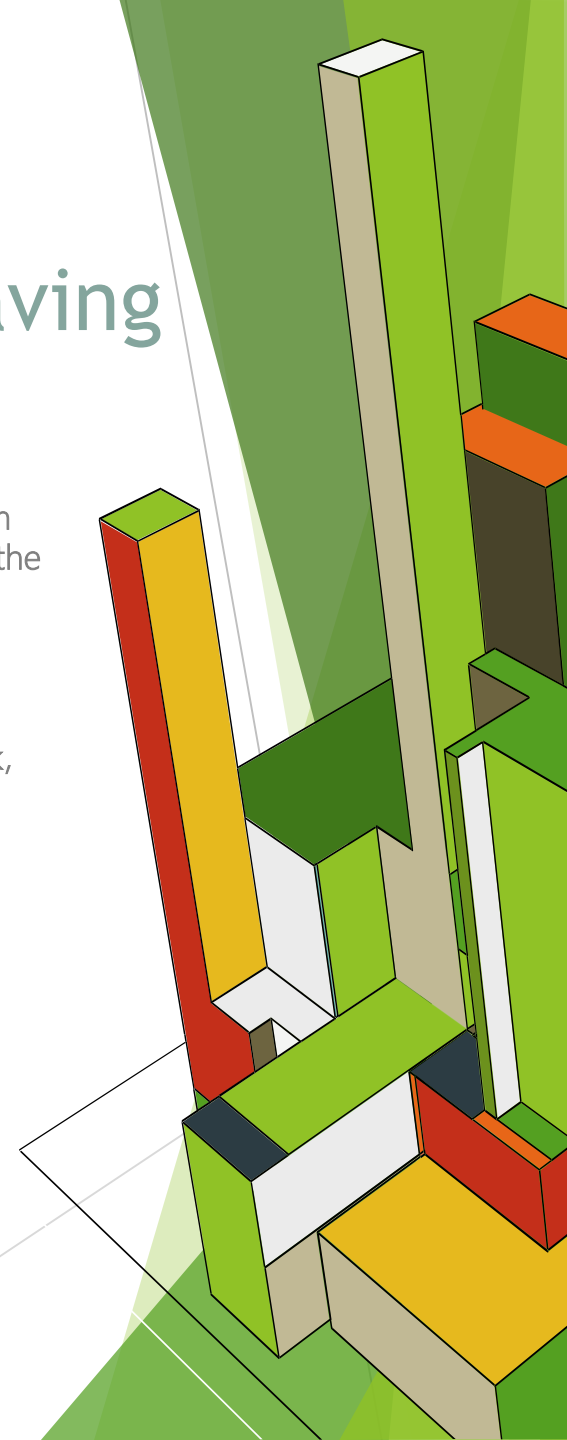
## Credits

There is less emphasis on the final exam as course work is assessed throughout the two years and students gain 'credits' as they go.

As students complete and submit their Leaving Certificate Applied course work, they are awarded what is called 'credits' .

There are 200 credits awarded in total:

62 Credits- 31% Ongoing attendance, classwork, assignments  
70 Credits- 35% 7 Student Tasks  
68 Credits- 34% 7 Final Examinations





## Who should consider LCA?

- Someone who wants to stay in school and get a Leaving Certificate
- Someone who prefers learning by doing
- Someone who would be motivated by on-going assessment
- Someone who wants to get work experience to help them in their career choice



The background features a vibrant, abstract composition of overlapping, multi-colored rectangular blocks in shades of red, green, yellow, orange, and grey. A large white rectangular area on the left side contains the main text.

# THANK YOU

Ms Mary Maher

LCA Co-Ordinator

[mmaher@coolminecs.ie](mailto:mmaher@coolminecs.ie)

7/1/20XX

Pitch deck title

49