JUNIOR CERTIFICATE SUBJECT OPTIONS 2020

NENAGH COLLEGE

Vital to choose the right subjects

- Students must pick subjects carefully as it will determine their Leaving Certificate options and perhaps even their career choice in later years.

Main Advice

- Keep all your options open. Pick a range of subjects from different subject groupings.

- Pick subjects that you are good at, subjects you enjoy most and will work well in.

- Remember that there are **NO EASY OR HARD** subjects- **ALL** subjects require hard work, study and commitment in order to succeed.

- Every subject becomes more difficult in second year- as there is a lot more work involved.

Common **pitfalls** when picking subjects

- Pick the subject not the teacher
- Don't chose a subject just because your older brother or sister did well in it.
- Don't follow friends
- Amount of work or homework you think is involved in the subject.
- Picking subjects without any thought
- All subjects with a strong project element
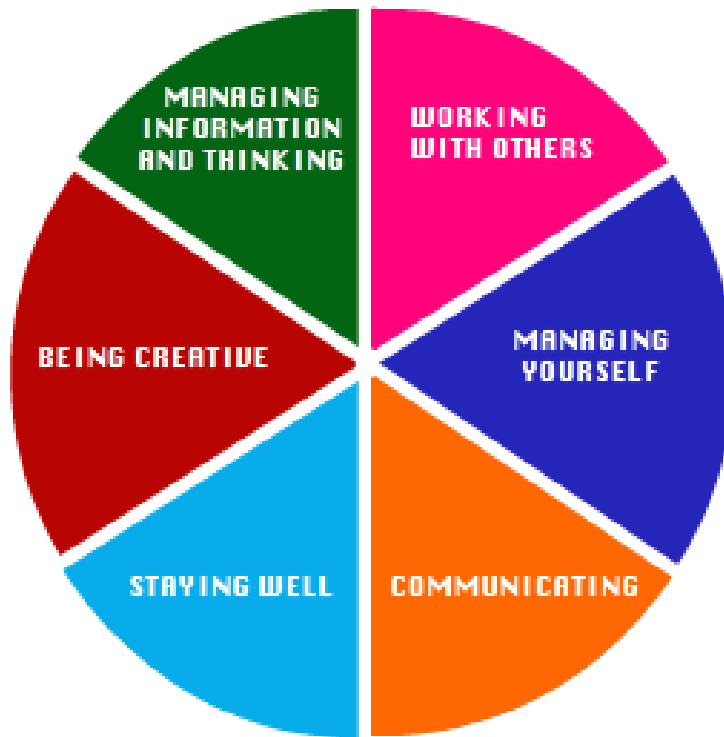
AVOID PITFALL

New Junior Cert Assessment 2015-2022

- The most significant change in the new Junior Cycle is in the area of assessment

- A dual approach to assessment that supports student learning over the three years of junior cycle and also measures achievement at the end of those three years.

- This dual approach reduces the focus on one externally assessed examination as a means of assessing students

- It increases the prominence given to classroom-based assessment (CBA's)

8 Key Skills and Principles of the Junior Certificate

Phasing out of Subjects

Subjects	Other areas	Introduced to 1st Year Students in:	First recorded on JCPA in:
Phase 1: English		September 2014	Autumn 2017
Phase 2: Science and Business Studies		September 2016	Autumn 2019
Phase 3: Irish, Modern Languages (French, German, Spanish, Italian) and Art, Craft & Design	Wellbeing	September 2017	Autumn 2020
Phase 4: Mathematics, Home Economics, History, Music and Geography		September 2018	Autumn 2021
Phase 5: Technology Subjects (Materials Technology / Wood, Technical Graphics, Metalwork, Technology), Religious Education, Jewish Studies and Classics		September 2019	Autumn 2022

Assessment for 2020 2nd Years

- Subjects below will be assessed under the new Junior Cert Specifications-

- English, Irish and Maths- will be assessed at Higher or Ordinary level

- Art, Business, French, Geography, History Home Economics, Music, Science – all assessed at a common level

- Usually a 2-2.5hr final exam and have 2 CBA's in 2nd & 3rd Year

Junior Cert & JCPA

UNDERSTANDING YOUR JUNIOR CYCLE PROFILE OF ACHIEVEMENT (JCPA)

This Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement records student achievement in subjects and short courses broadly aligned to Level 3 of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), and Priority Learning Units (PLUs) and short courses broadly aligned to Level 2 of the NFQ.

Grading of the Final Examination for subjects at Level 3 of the NFQ

For English 2017

H = Higher Level
O = Ordinary level

Grade Descriptor	Percentage
Distinction	≥ 90 to 100
Higher Merit	≥ 75 and < 90
Merit	≥ 55 and < 75
Achieved	≥ 40 and < 55
Partially Achieved	≥ 20 and < 40
Not Graded (NG)	≥ 0 and < 20

For all other subjects

H = Higher Level
O = Ordinary level
C = Common Level
F = Foundation Level

Grade Descriptor	Percentage
A	≥ 85 to 100
B	≥ 70 and < 85
C	≥ 55 and < 70
D	≥ 40 and < 55
E	≥ 25 and < 40
F	≥ 10 and < 25
Not Graded (NG)	≥ 0 and < 10

Classroom-Based Assessment Descriptors for subjects and short courses at Level 3:

Exceptional
Above Expectations
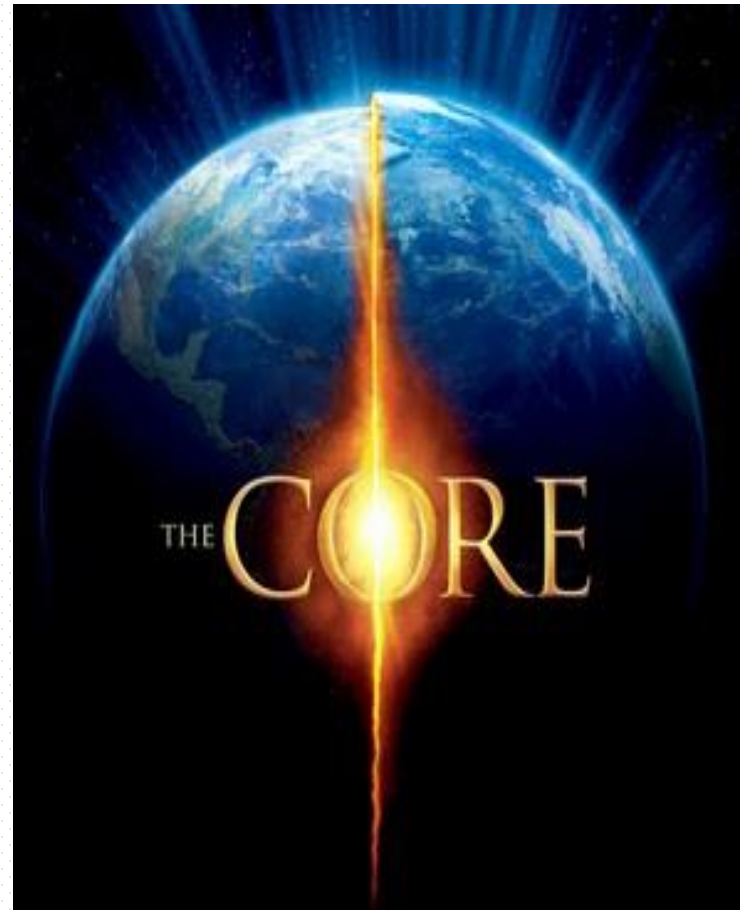In line with Expectations
Yet to Meet Expectations

(Where a descriptor for a Classroom-Based Assessment has not been given to a student, the term 'Not Reported' is used.)

Achievement in PLUs and Level 2 short courses is recorded on the JCPA as 'Achieved'.

Subject Options 2ⁿᵈ Year

4 Core Examination Subjects

- Irish (unless Exempt)
- English
- Maths
- Science

Non Exam Subjects
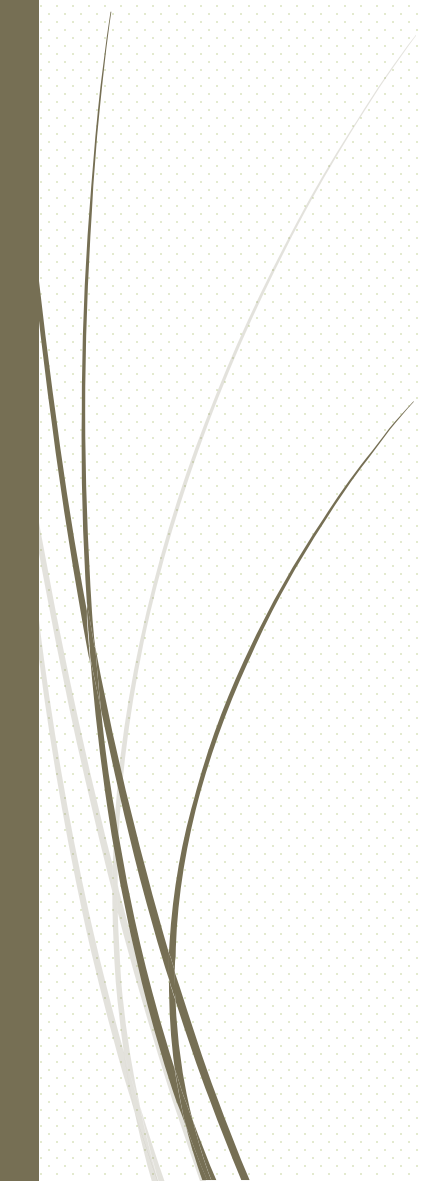
Non Examination Subjects

- Religion
- Wellbeing (PE,SPHE, CSPE)

Optional Subjects

3 Optional Subjects: Choose from

- Art
- Business Studies
- French
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- Material Technology (Metalwork)
- Material Technology (Woodwork)
- Music
- Technical Graphics

Subject Groupings

- **Language Group**
  Irish, English, French

- **Science Group**
  Mathematics, Science.

- **Business Studies Group**
  Business

- **Social Studies Group**
  History, Geography, Art, Music, Home Economics

- **Practical Group**

  Materials Technology (Wood), Materials Technology (Metal), Technical Graphics

Language Group

- **English:** A Pass is required for most courses; sometimes Irish will be accepted instead Junior Cert Reform- 10% based on Classroom Based Assessment (CBA) in 2nd and 3rd yr

- **Irish**-requirement for entry to the University and IT's

- Classroom Based Assessment in 2nd and 3rd yr

- Also a requirement for the Cadets. Gardai require two languages.

- H4 (60%-69%) Higher Level required for primary teaching or study Irish at Trinity College

Modern Foreign Languages-French

- At present a third or a foreign language (French) is required for the majority of programmes at- N.U.I. Galway, Maynooth, UCC, UCD, the National College of Surgeons as well as some Colleges linked to them such as St. Angela's, Sligo; Shannon School of Management; N.C.D.A and Army Cadetships and the Air Corps.

- Often it is too early for students to drop their foreign language before the JC

- Students exempt from Irish and receiving resource will find French difficult

- CBA in 2nd & 3rd Yr

- One Common level final exam 2hrs duration

La Vie est Belle
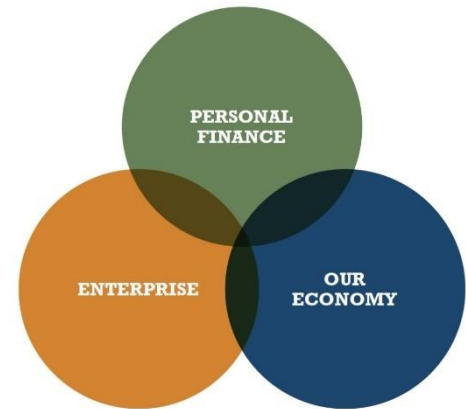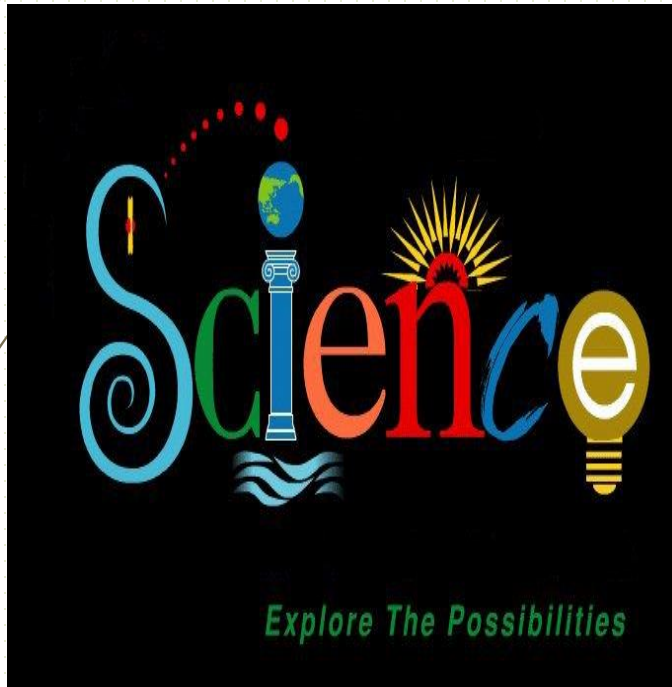
Life is Beautiful!

Third Language Exceptions

- Nursing courses in any of the Colleges mentioned above, Agricultural Science, General Science and Engineering courses at N.U.I Galway ,Maynooth, UCD and UCC.

- It is important to remember that there are many colleges such as U.L and DCU and the Institutes of Technology that **DO NOT require** a third language for entry.

Business Group

- This subject is concerned with understanding the environment in which business operates, the business environment both the public and private sectors.

- The course of study through the three inter-connecte strands: Personal Finance , Enterprise and Our Economy .

- 2 Classroom based Assessments (CBA's) in 2nd and 3rd year. Final Exam- Common Level- 2 Hrs duration

Science Group- Core

- Biology, Chemistry, Physics are covered at Junior Certificate.

- Science is compulsory at JC

- Science is required for anything in the Engineering, Medical, Paramedical, Science and Nursing fields.

- 2 Classroom based Assessments (CBA's) in 2nd and 3rd year. Final Exam- Common Level- 2 Hrs duration

Social Studies Group

- Art
- Geography
- History
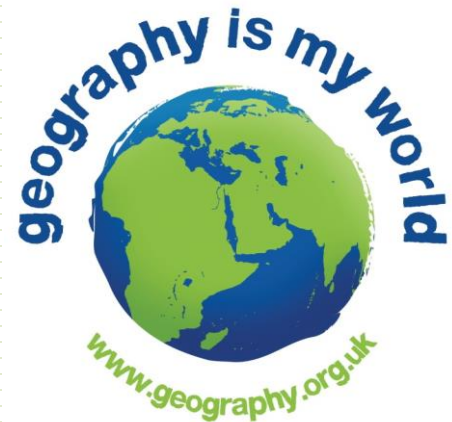- Home Economics
- Music

Art

- Many of the skills you learn while studying Art are very useful outside of school and in whatever job you choose to do in the future. There are many career opportunities - areas such as: photography, illustration, interior/industrial/fashion design, education and architecture.

- 2 Classroom-Based Assessments , For the SEC- students will reflect on and use the feedback from their teacher and peers, as the basis to create further significant developmental work in their Visual Art sketchpad as well as two realised pieces for the examination.

Geography

- It is the study of places, people and what shapes the environment

- Geography prepares you for careers in town planning, outdoor pursuits education, weather forecasting, tourism and transport. Geography keeps you informed of topics which arise in conversation, current affairs, newspaper reports, and on TV, such as climate change, renewable energy and aid to poorer nations.

- 2 CBA's – Geography in the news and My Geography in 2nd & 3rd Yr

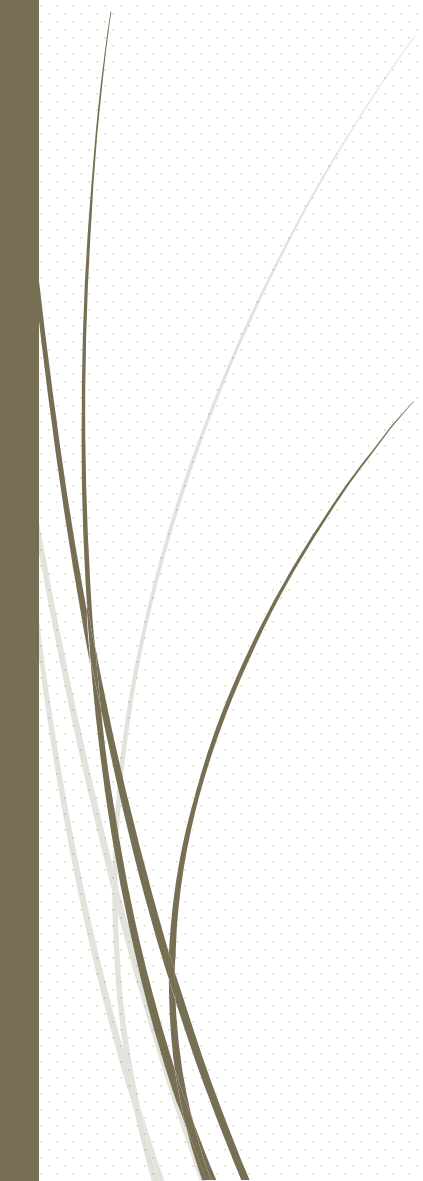- 1 Common level exam 2 hrs in duration

History

- History involves the study of people who lived in the past - ordinary people as well as famous people- using sources and other evidence.

- Finding out about important changes that, over time, have helped to shape the world in which we live.

Our History

- History can help you in may different careers, especially those linked with heritage, tourism, research and the environment.

- 2 CBA's – The Past in my place and A life in Time in 2nd & 3rd Yr

- 1 Common level exam 2 hrs in duration
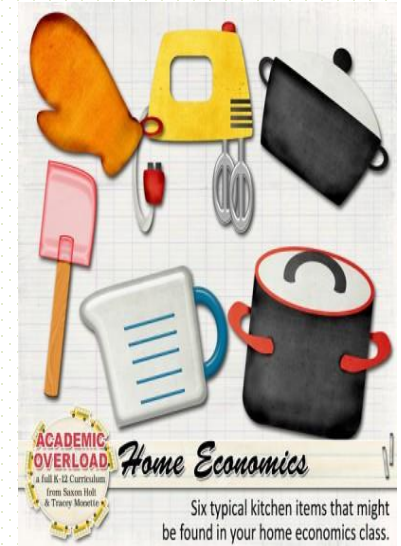
- Compulsory from 2020 (1st year)

History and Geography promote….

- "Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. It is, the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realise his or her full potential." **Kofi Annan - United Nations General Secretary**

Home Economics

- Home Economics is a subject where you will learn how to take care of yourself, others, your home and your environment.

- As Home Economics is a very practical subject, you will carry out a lot of activities in school and at home.

- Students will sit a written examination of one and a half hour's duration based on three strands: **Food, Health and Culinary Skills, Responsible Family Living, Textiles and Craft**

- Practical Exam

- 2 Classroom based assessments in 2nd & 3rd Yr - Creative textiles and Food literacy skills brief

ACADEMIC OVERLOAD
a full K-12 Curriculum
from Saxon Holt
& Tracey Monette

Home Economics

Six typical kitchen items that might be found in your home economics class.

Music

- In JC Music, you will sing and learn how to play an instrument. You will listen to many types of music such as pop, classical and traditional Irish music. You will also start composing.

- 2 CBAs- Composition portfolio and a programme note

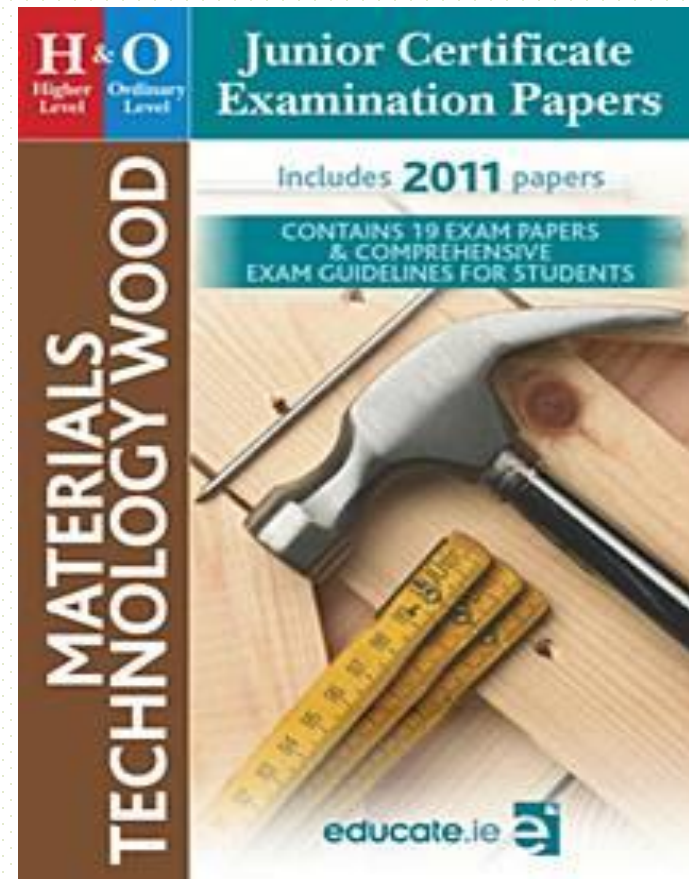- Practical (30%)and written exam(70%)

- Possible careers in music: education (teacher, lecturer), business (sound engineer, lyricist, reviewer, therapist) and performance (composer, performer, conductor).

Practical Group

Note: Specifications for the technology subjects will be revised in phase 4 of the Junior Cycle Developments, with the changes commencing in 2019, for certification in 2022.

- Materials Technology (Wood)
- Material Technology (Metalwork)
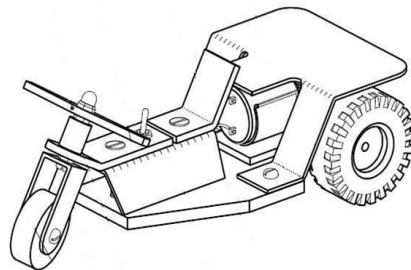- Technical Graphics

Materials Technology: Wood

- In MTW you will learn to design small projects and the skills required to use tools and equipment to make your designs. You will work mainly with wood but also with the materials. You will learn about wood as a material and how it is produced.

How will Materials Technology Wood be useful to me?

- You will know the correct procedures to follow when developing an idea into a finished artefact e.g. a piece of furniture or a child's toy etc.

- You will be able to identify different trees, recognise their importance to us and our environment

- You will also have the skills to make objects from wood and know how to apply appropriate finishes to them, e.g. paint, varnish, stain or polish.

- **Course work Project (66%)and Written Exam**

Materials Technology: Metalwork

- It is an activity-based course focusing on metal, how to work with it and how to assemble different parts. Other materials such as plastics and wood are also Investigated and used in project work. You will be working with basic electronic components too.

- **How will Metalwork be useful to me?**

- You will be able to work with metals and other materials such as wood and plastic. You will be able to assemble these materials into useful and interesting items. You will know the most suitable finish to apply to your project and how to apply it.

- Course work Project, Written Exam and Practical exam (Higher level)

Technical Graphics

- In Technical Graphics you will learn how to represent 3-D objects on paper and on computer. You will develop problem solving and creative thinking skills through the solution of graphical problems.

- This subject will be of use to you if you want to progress into career areas such as architecture or engineering.

How will Technical Graphics be useful to me?
Technical Graphics helps you to think in a more logical and creative way. You will be able to communicate information using diagrams and sketches. You will have learned how to present information in a neat and organised fashion.
This subject will be of use to you if you want to progress into career areas such as architecture or engineering.

SHORT COURSES-

Classroom-Based Assessment relating to short courses will be communicated to parents in interim reporting and in the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA)

Coding

- The short course aims to develop the student's ability to formulate problems logically; to design, write and test code through the development of programs, apps, games, animations or websites; and, through their chosen learning activities, to learn about computer science.

Digital media Literacy

- This short course aims to extend and refine students' ability to use digital technology, communication tools, and the internet creatively, critically and safely, in support of their development, learning and capacity to participate effectively in social and community life.

Remember

- **Homework is** re-enforcing schoolwork
- **Do homework** both oral, written and research consistently
- **Study**-revision-learning- re: learning
- **2nd Year student-2 hours study per night**
- Most Subjects have CBA- Attendance and steady work in class is a must
- **Learning takes place in the classroom**
- **Be** organised with books and equipment
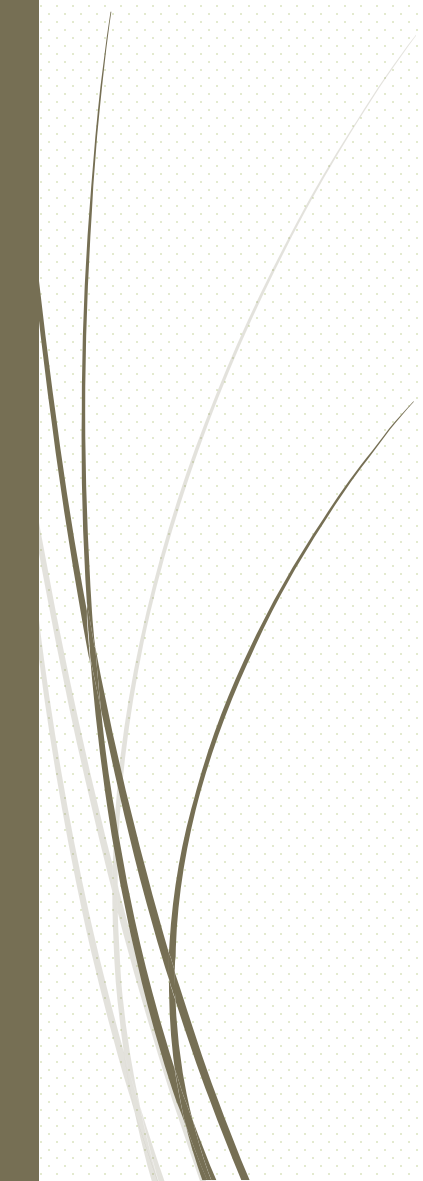
Work hard …Dream Big

Last Words

- Think carefully before you choose your subjects
- It may **be difficult** to change subjects once chosen
- Every subject requires hard work and study-
- 3rd language – French not necessary for all Colleges.
- Practical subjects have projects-outside of class time
- Difficult to do a subject for LC if not taken for JC

Please note

- While **every effort** will be made to facilitate your son/daughter with their 5 highest preference subjects, this may not always be possible due to subject combinations and timetabling restraints

- Useful website:

- For the new Junior Cert Specifications: https://www.curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-Subjects

Success in school

THANK YOU!

- ANY QUESTIONS?