



Ballyhaunis Community School

Guide to 1st Year Subject Choices



The Junior Cycle

The Junior Cycle which all students are now taking part in has introduced a range of 8 skills and 24 statements of learning that must be on offer to students over the course of Junior Cycle.

Ballyhaunis Community School ensures that all of these are met over the duration of the Junior Certificate.

What is new in the Junior Cycle?

1. Subject courses have been shortened to allow more experimental and activity-based learning so that students gain skills as well as knowledge.
2. Subjects have an 'assessment task' which is completed in school prior to the Junior Certificate exam. This allows students to gain marks (up to 10%) before the final exam.
3. A new Certificate has been introduced called the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement or JCPA.
4. Class based assessments or CBAs are completed in class and graded by teachers. e.g. a student makes a short presentation to a class group. Grades are recorded on the JCPA
5. Wellbeing has been introduced as a subject. This comprises of three key subjects CSPE, SPHE and PE as well as additional activities.



*For more information on the
Junior Cert
please go the following website*

www.jct.ie

Subjects at Junior Cycle

The following are the subjects offered in Ballyhaunis Community School for the Junior Cycle,

1. Core Subjects (all student study the following subjects)

1. Irish*
2. English
3. Maths
4. Science
5. History
6. Geography
7. Wellbeing (P.E. & SPHE & CSPE)
8. Religious Education

*Those with formal exemptions attend Learning Support

Optional Subjects – Students must pick **three** from the list below

- Visual Art
- Music
- Business Studies
- French
- Wood Technology
- Engineering
- Graphics
- Home Economics



Choosing Subjects—Factors to be considered



1. Flexibility

The first factor to be taken into consideration is that optional subjects can be changed. On the Subject Choice form you are indicating *your preference* for subjects. You should give serious consideration to what subjects you wish to study but we also understand that in September you may find that a subject is not what you thought and there will be flexibility to change but this will be down to numbers and spaces available in the classes.

2. Interests

What do I like? If you like something, you are more likely to work at it and enjoy it. Therefore, choose the subjects you like or think you will like. There is no point choosing a subject because you believe it will get you a job or because you believe it is easy. Similarly, there is no point avoiding a subject just because you heard somewhere that it will be difficult. Remember, what one person considers easy, another considers difficult and vice versa!

3. Be open to new subjects

Don't be afraid to try a new subject if you feel you would like it. Just because you have never done it doesn't mean you won't like it. In fact, you may love it and be very good at it.

4. Ability/Aptitude:

What am I good at? Look at what you are good at. Are you interested in reading? Do you enjoy writing? Do you like working with wood? Are you familiar with engineering already? Are you musical? Do you enjoy sewing, cooking etc. Do you like learning languages? Do languages come easy to you? Are you good at Art? Are you artistically minded? Ask yourself '*What am I good at?*'

5. Future Career

It is very difficult to decide what career a person would like at 12 years of age. However, 12-year-olds know what they don't like. No one wants to end up working in a job doing something they don't like. Once you know what you don't like, the key is to keep your options open.

6. Languages.

If you intend to go to University, the National University of Ireland Colleges i.e. University College Dublin (UCD), University of Galway (UG), University College Cork (UCC), and National University of Ireland, Maynooth and their affiliated colleges require a European language for entry to most courses. There are exceptions to this rule in that if you want to study Nursing, Engineering or Science in any of the NUI Colleges, a third language is not required.

Please Note it can be very difficult to take up a language in Senior Cycle without having it done for Junior Cycle.

These six factors need to be considered when choosing subjects.



If I don't like a subject in September, Can I change?

Yes, but changes can only be made based on numbers and availability in classes.

If I didn't do a subject at Junior Cycle, can I take it up at Senior Cycle?

There is no simple answer to this.

A. In the case of a lot of subjects, the answer is Yes. You may be a little behind compared to some of the other students but with a little extra effort by an interested student, the subject is very achievable.

B. In the case of other subjects, the answer is less clear-cut. It very much depends on a student's personal skills. E.g. a someone with a **flair for/prior knowledge** of Art, Music, Graphics, Engineering or Wood Technology and who didn't choose the subject in Junior Cert may be comfortably able to take it on at Leaving Certificate.

C. In the case of some other subjects, the answer is probably no. E.g. it would be very difficult to pick up French in Leaving Certificate never having studied it before.

What do Junior Cert subjects lead to at Senior Cycle

Junior Certificate	Leaving Certificate
Irish	Irish
English	English
Maths	Maths
The subjects below translate directly into Leaving Certificate subjects.	
History	History
Geography	Geography
French	French
Music	Music
Art	Art
The following subjects change name but essentially remain the same, building on what has been learned in Junior Cycle	
Home Economics	Social and Scientific
Graphics	Design and Communications Graphics (DCG)
Wood Technology	Construction Studies
Engineering	Engineering
The following subject divide into various different subjects allowing students to specialise	
Business	Business Studies
	Accounting
Science	Biology
	Chemistry
	Phys/Chem
	Agricultural Science

Some information on Junior Cycle Option subjects – students must study 3 Optional subjects for Junior Cycle:

Home Economics

This is about equipping young people in certain important skills for living as individuals and of establishing and developing a stable environment for their families.

What do you study?

- 1) Food Studies/Culinary skills
- 2) Consumer Studies
- 3) Social and Health Studies
- 4) Resource management and
- 5) Textiles Skills



Examination : 50% practical (cooking) 50% written. Class based assessments are based on Craftwork.

Music

Junior Certificate Music, you will sing and perhaps learn 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.

What will you do:

- Learn about many types of music
- how to read and write music
- how to sing songs
- play an instrument.
- Parts in performances/choir etc.



Examination: - Variety of practical and theory-based assessment methods as well as class based assessments or CBAs

Careers/Courses: Composer, Conductor, Sound Engineer, Primary School Teaching, Drama & Theatre & Communications.

Art

This involves becoming familiar with and applying the elements of art and principles of design, and the knowledge and skills associated with these processes.

What will you do?

It involves practical work

- Design
- Drawing,
- Painting
- Working with clay etc.
- Computer work
- Advertising



Examination: combination of a written exam and class-based assessments over the three years.

Possible Careers/Courses: Graphic Design, Film, Animation, Teaching.



Wood Technology

In Woodwork students learn to design small projects and the skills required to use tools and equipment to make your designs.

Main sections:

- 1) Examine trees & the environment
- 2) Sketching
- 3) Design Project
- 4) Practical work –completing projects

Careers/Courses: Sustainable Energy Consultant, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Construction Management, Architecture, Quantity Surveyor, Site Foremen, Plumber, Carpenter, Joiner.

Engineering

In Engineering you will learn how to work with metal and assemble different parts. Plastics and wood are also investigated.

What will you learn?



- Examine properties of metal/wood/plastics
- Examine how things work
- Freehand sketching
- Creating and assembling projects
- Learn about basic electronic components

Careers/Courses: Aircraft Technician, Fitter/Turner, Industrial Design / Operatives, Mechanics, Mechanical Production, Structural and Civil Engineer, Toolmaker and Welder



Graphics

In Graphics you will learn how to represent 3-D objects on paper and on computer.

What will you study?

- How to do drawings of everyday items
- 3D Visualisation
- Architectural drawing
- Sketching, colouring and shading of objects
- Cardboard / paper models of items

Examination: Written Exam/CBAs

Careers/Courses: Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Construction Management, Architecture, Product Design, Quantity Surveyor, Draughtsman, Graphic Design and Teaching.

French

French students will learn and become competent in the French language as well as becoming familiar with the culture. The emphasis is on the 4 key skills:

- Reading
- Writing
- Listening
- Speaking



Examination: combination of a written exam and class-based assessments over the three years.

Careers/Courses:

Translator or Interpreter, French Language Teacher, Tour Guide, Foreign Correspondent, Journalist, International Business Consultant, International Lawyer, NGO Program Officer or Human Rights Advocate, Diplomat or International Relations Specialist.

Business

Business studies encourages students to

- develop an appreciation of how their lives are shaped by economic and social factors.
- make informed decisions and better manage their personal financial resources
- improve their knowledge and understanding of good business practice
- with an insight and positive attitude to entrepreneurship, demonstrating how it can improve our goods, services and institutions.
- develop skills for learning, skills for work and skills for life.
- development of analytical and critical thinking skills, encouraging students to be problem solvers.

Examination: combination of a written exam and class-based assessments over the three years.

Careers / Courses : Accounting, Banking, Bookkeeping, Administration, Insurance, Sales, Marketing, Merchandising, Customs and Excise, Taxation and Law.



We hope you have found this guide helpful in making your subject choices. If you need any other assistance in relation to subject choice, please do not hesitate to contact our Career Guidance Department, they will be on hand to answer any questions you may have.

Our Guidance Counsellor details are as follows:

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