

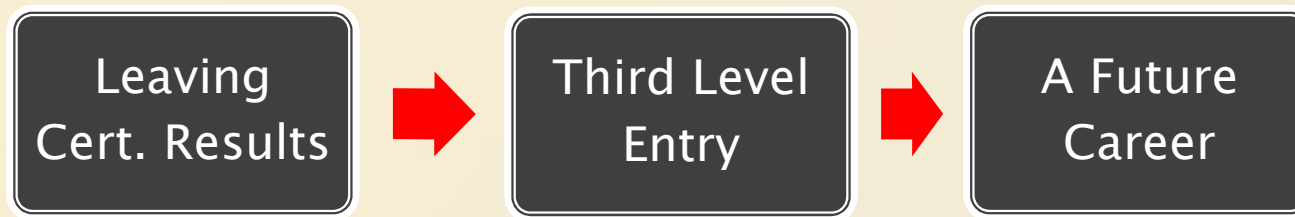


# Guidance on Choosing your Senior Cycle Subjects 2026

Ballyhaunis Community School

# Choosing Subjects for Senior Cycle

This is Important For:



- ☐ Students Study **Three Core Subjects**
- ☐ English, Irish\* & Maths
- ☐ Then Choose **Four Additional Exam Subjects**
- ☐ Option for students to take Life Community and Work, formerly LCVP

# Choose Four Subjects

## Students Should Reflect on:

- ❑ Subjects that they **Like & Enjoy**
- ❑ Subjects they **Perform** well in (For Points)
- ❑ Specific Subject **Requirements** for college entry

## To Keep Options Open:

- ❑ Choose a broad range of Subjects:  
Language/Science/Business



# **INFLUENCERS TO BE MINDFUL OF**

- **Perceived a subject as ‘EASY’ OR ‘HARD’  
(No subject is easy/hard.....suitability)**
- **‘Male’ OR ‘Female’ Subject**
- **Picking subjects in relation to teachers**
- **Picking subjects in relation to friends.**

## **CONSEQUENCES OF POOR SUBJECT CHOICE**

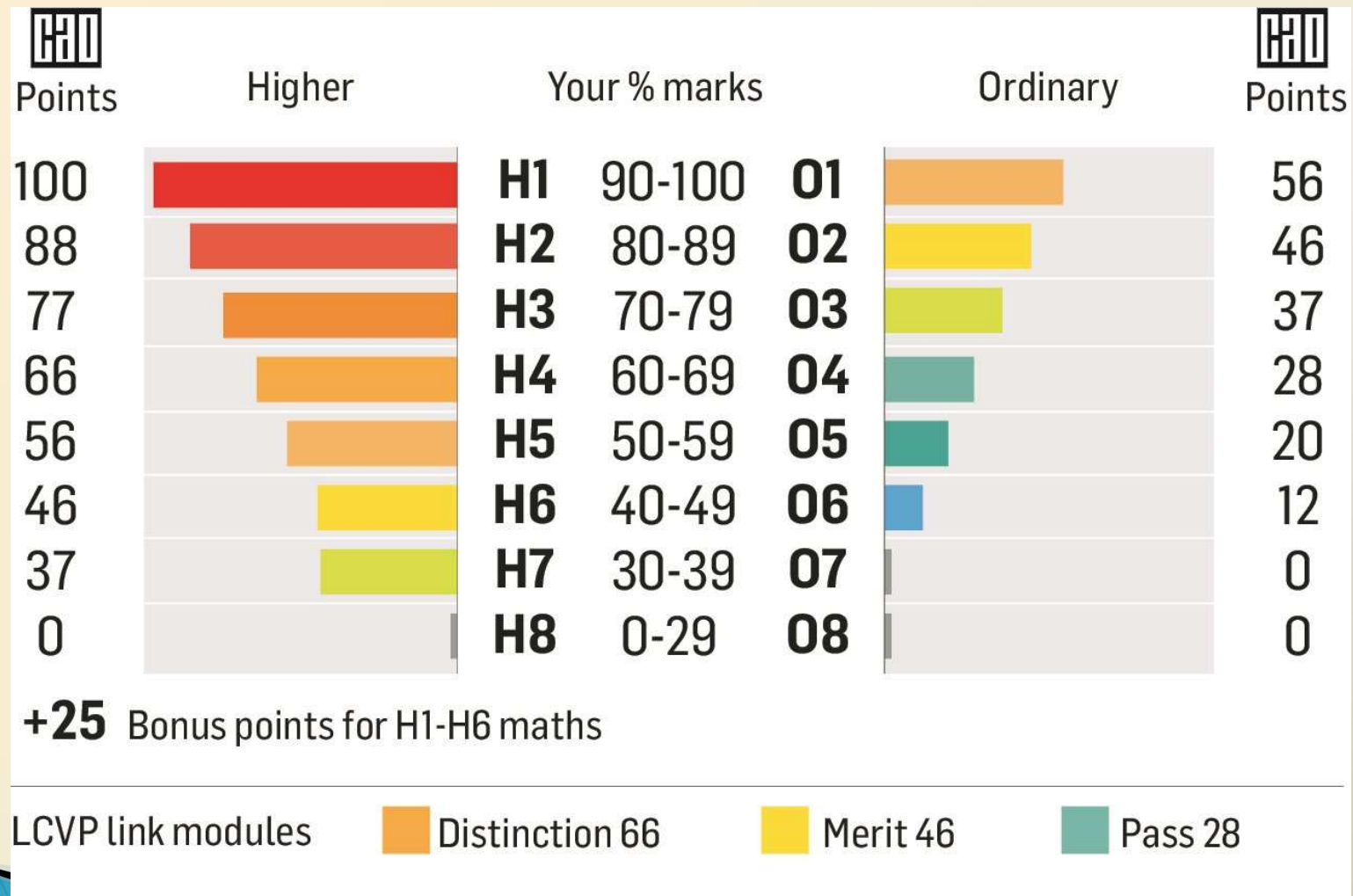
- ▶ **Likely to be unhappy in class for two years – lack motivation**
- ▶ **Likely not to do well – affects overall attainment**
- ▶ **Not having the right subject for a course after school**
- ▶ **May want to change subjects in 5<sup>th</sup> year. the school will try to facilitate this but cannot always do so and changing involves having to catch up in the new subject – it is a disadvantage taking up a subject 6 or 8 weeks later than the other students in the class.**

# How Points are Calculated

- ▶ Calculation of points are based on the **best six subjects** from one sitting of the LC.
- ▶ **Bonus Points for Higher Level Maths** . Students achieving H6 or above will have **25 points** added to their score for Maths



# Understanding the Points System



# SUBJECT GROUPINGS:

Core Subjects	Languages	Lab Sciences	Business	Applied Sciences	Social Sciences
Irish Unless Exempt	French	Phys/Chem	Accounting	Construction	History
English		Chemistry	Business	DCG	Geography
Maths		Biology  Agricultural Science		Social and Scientific	Art
		Computer Science  Physical Education		Engineering	Music



# ESSENTIAL SUBJECTS

However there are certain subjects & grades that are essential for entry to particular **COLLEGES** and **COURSES**.

For example:

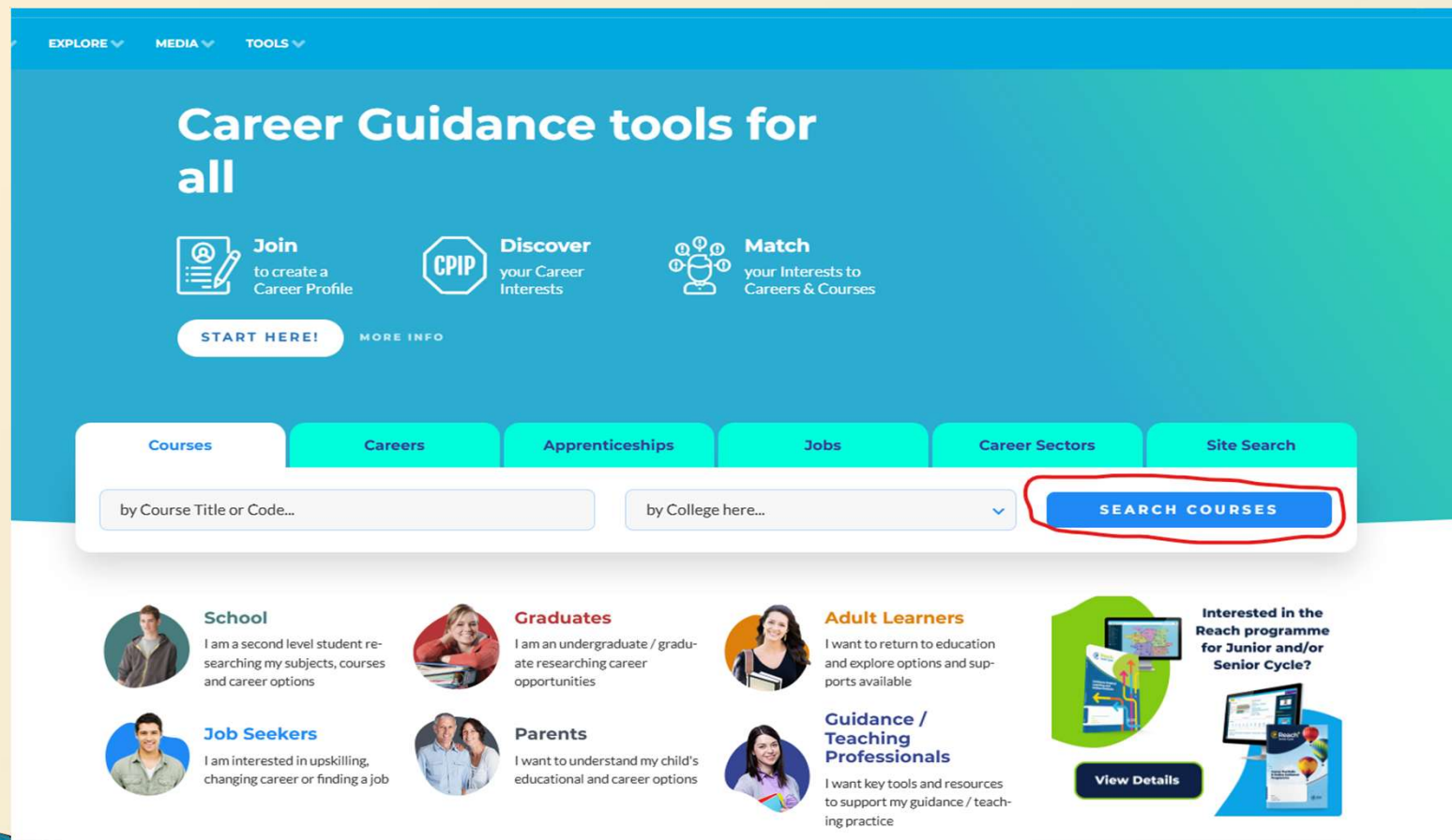
Third language required for NUI colleges with the exception of Science, Nursing and Engineering

H4 in Irish for Primary School Teacher

Chemistry is required for Pharmacy, Dietetics

Biology, Chemistry and a language required for Medicine

- ▶ A great website for checking course requirements is [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)
- ▶ Click on search courses



- ▶ When you click on search courses you can then filter your search. Firstly click on CAO higher education and 1784 courses will come up

Course Name or Code

Search for any course name c

Example: "ani" will find animal and mechanical.

My Favourites

Career Sectors

- Accountancy, Finance & Insurance
- Agriculture, Animals & Food
- Business, Sales & Tourism
- Creative Arts, Fashion & Media
- Government, Law & Education
- Healthcare, Wellbeing & Sport
- STEM, Environment & Construction

Course Type

- PLC (Further Education - FET)
- CAO (Higher Education - HET)**
- Tertiary Education Programmes
- Postgraduate
- Northern Ireland (UU & CAFRE)

More options\*

CAO (Higher Education - HET)

Found 1784 courses Clear All Filters

View Sort by Course Title

Save	Course	Course Title	College	NFQ Level	Duration	QQI Links	Points
	CM004 CAO	Oideachas - Bunmhúinteoireacht - Tri Mheán na Gaeilge (daltai Gaeltachta - TEG)	Marino Institute of Education	8	4 Years		496 # ▲ 25
	DL847 CAO	3D-Animation	Institute of Art, Design and Technology Dun Laoghaire - IADT	8	4 Years		605 # ▲ 27
	CK202 CAO	Accounting	University College Cork - UCC	8	3 Years		510 ▲ 12
	TU910 CAO	Accounting	TU Dublin - Aungier Street	8	3-4 Years		380
	SE408 CAO	Accounting	SETU Waterford Campus	8	3 Years		308 ▲ 4
	MT942 CAO	Accounting	MTU Cork Campus	8	4 Years		303 ▲ 2
	SE407 CAO	Accounting	SETU Carlow Campus	8	3 Years		319 ▲ 1
	GC212 CAO	Accounting	Griffith College Cork	8	3 Years		New!
	GC312 CAO	Accounting	Griffith College Limerick	8	3 Years		New!
	GC412 CAO	Accounting	Griffith College Dublin	8	3 Years		New!
	AU600 CAO	Accounting (Dublin Road campus)	ATU Galway / Mayo	8	3 Years		325 ▲ 15
	AU902 CAO	Accounting (Sligo Campus)	ATU Sligo	8	3 Years		320 ▲ 4

- ▶ You can then filter further for example you can find out what courses require a Science Subject. From this you can then click on the particular course you are interested in and find out more information.

Found 213 courses

Clear All Filters

View Sort by Course Title Print

DN250 CAO	Animal Science - Agricultural Science	University College Dublin - UCD	8	4 Years	431 ▲ 31	▼
DN250 CAO	Animal Science - Equine - Agricultural Science	University College Dublin - UCD	8	4 Years	431 ▲ 31	▼
DC204 CAO	Athletic Therapy and Training	Dublin City University - DCU	8	4-5 Years	554 ▼ -11	▼
TR060 CAO	Biological and Biomedical Sciences	Trinity College Dublin - TCD	8	4 Years	554 *	▼
CK402 CAO	Biological and Chemical Sciences	University College Cork - UCC	8	4 Years	532 ▼ -1	▼
LM123 CAO	Biological and Chemical Sciences (Common Entry)	University of Limerick - UL	8	4 Years	484 ▼ -4	▼
MH203 CAO	Biological and Geographical Sciences	Maynooth University	8	4 Years	419 ▲ 9	▼
CK404 CAO	Biological, Environmental and Geological Sciences	University College Cork - UCC	8	4 Years	487 ▲ 2	▼
LM092 CAO	Biology with Chemistry, Physics, Ag Science - Teacher Education)	University of Limerick - UL	8	4 Years	488 ▼ -11	▼
TU866 CAO	Biomedical and Molecular Diagnostics	TU Dublin - Grangegorman	8	4 Years	489 ▲ 14	▼
GY408 CAO	Biomedical Engineering	University of Galway - UG	8	4 Years	568 ▼ -10	▼
GY303 CAO	Biomedical Science	University of Galway - UG	8	4 Years	566 ▼ -11	▼
MT871 CAO	Biomedical Science (Joint MTU & UCC course)	University College Cork - UCC	8	4 Years	555 *	▼
MT871 CAO	Biomedical Science (Joint UCC & MTU course)	MTU Cork Campus	8	4 Years	555 *	▼
DN440 CAO	Biomedical, Health and Life Sciences	University College Dublin - UCD	8	4 Years	589 *	▼
GY318	Biopharmaceutical Chemistry	University of Galway - UG	8	4 Years	532	▼

CAO (Higher Education - HET) ☒

Tertiary Education Programmes ☐

Postgraduate ☐

Northern Ireland (UU & CAFRE) ☐

More options\* ▼

AO Entry Requirements

CAO Points  949

New CAO courses for 2026 ☐

No Maths required ☐

Accepts Foundation Maths ☐

Accepts Ordinary Maths ☐

Lab Science required ☒

Lab Science not required ☐

Modern Language required ☐

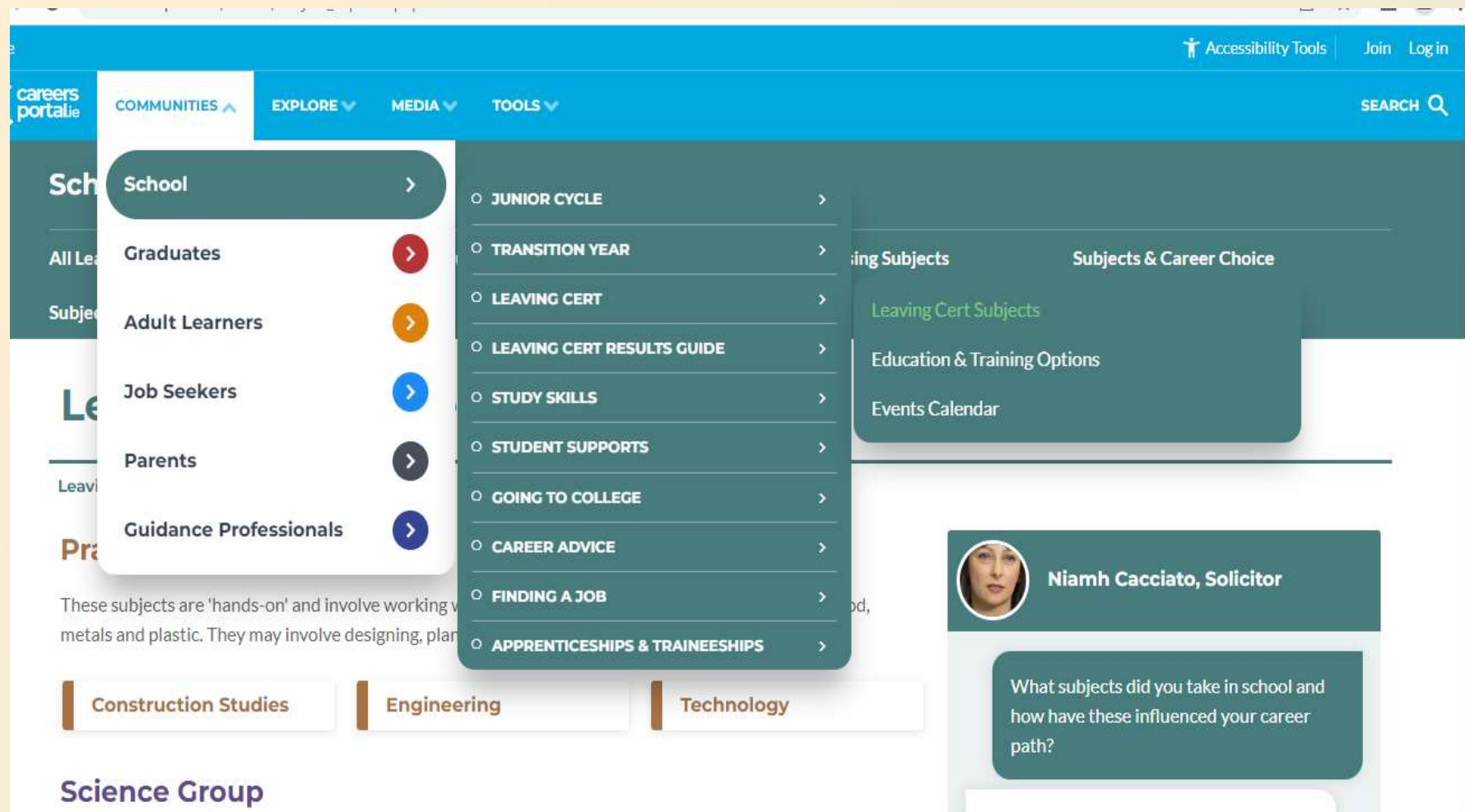
Modern Language not required ☐

Restricted courses only ☐

CAO Language Options



[WWW.CAREERSPORTAL.IE](http://WWW.CAREERSPORTAL.IE) very good for finding out information on subjects for the leaving certificate



## School

[All Leaving Cert Subjects](#)[Useful Subject Tips](#)[Guide to Choosing Subjects](#)[Subjects & Career Choice](#)[Subjects by Grade Explored](#)[FAQs](#)

# Leaving Cert Subjects

[Leaving Cert](#) | [Leaving Cert Applied \(LCA\)](#)

## Practical Group

These subjects are 'hands-on' and involve working with tools and machinery on physical things like wood, metals and plastic. They may involve designing, planning and building things.

[Construction Studies](#)[Engineering](#)[Technology](#)

## Science Group



**Niamh Cacciato, Solicitor**

What subjects did you take in school and how have these influenced your career path?

I chose two languages in school- French



# Useful Websites

- ▶ [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie) for general career and course information
- ▶ [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) for specific information on all courses including PLC courses
- ▶ [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) for information on points
- ▶ [www.apprenticeship.ie](http://www.apprenticeship.ie) for information on apprenticeships
- ▶ [www.ballyhauniscs.ie/departments/guidance/](http://www.ballyhauniscs.ie/departments/guidance/)
- ▶ The colleges own websites

# FINALLY!

- ☐ Choose subjects you like & are good at
- ☐ Speak to subject teachers, do your research
- ☐ Consult up to date Web Sites and College Brochures
- ☐ If in doubt consult with your Career Guidance Counsellor

# Contact Details

- ▶ Email: [guidance@ballyhauniscs.ie](mailto:guidance@ballyhauniscs.ie) or [b.waters@ballyhauniscs.ie](mailto:b.waters@ballyhauniscs.ie)
- ▶ Tel: 094 9630235