

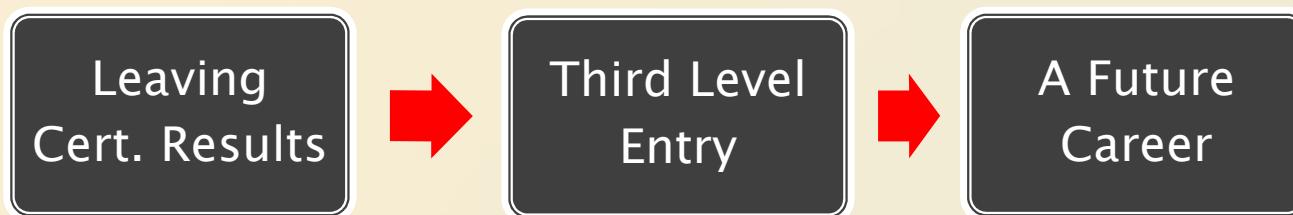


# Guidance on Choosing your Senior Cycle Subjects 2026

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.

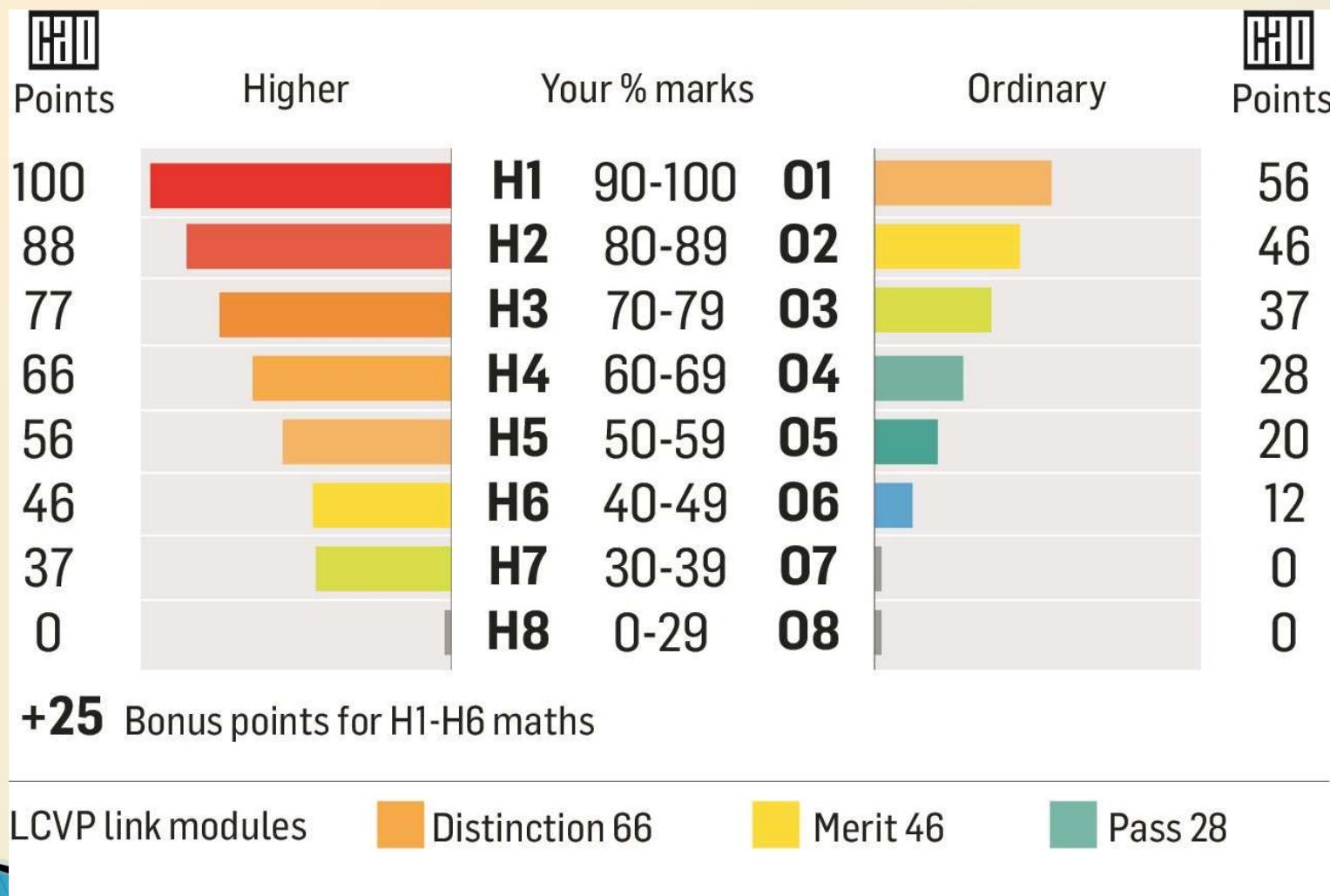
## **CONSEQUENCES OF POOR SUBJECT CHOICE**

- ▶ 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:

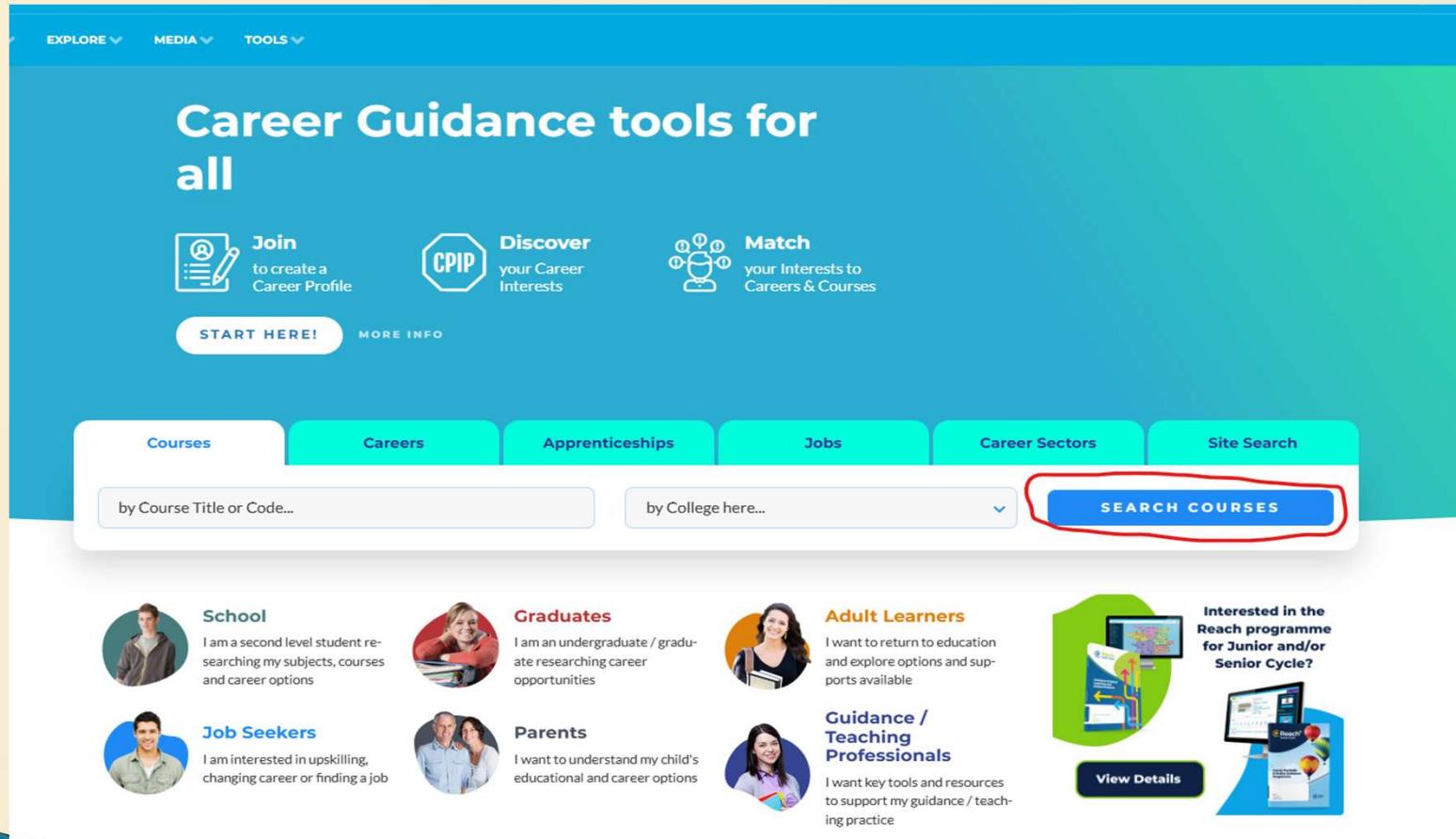
Third language required for NUI colleges with the exception of Science, Nursing and Engineering

H4 in Irish for Primary School Teacher

Chemistry is required for Pharmacy, Dietetics

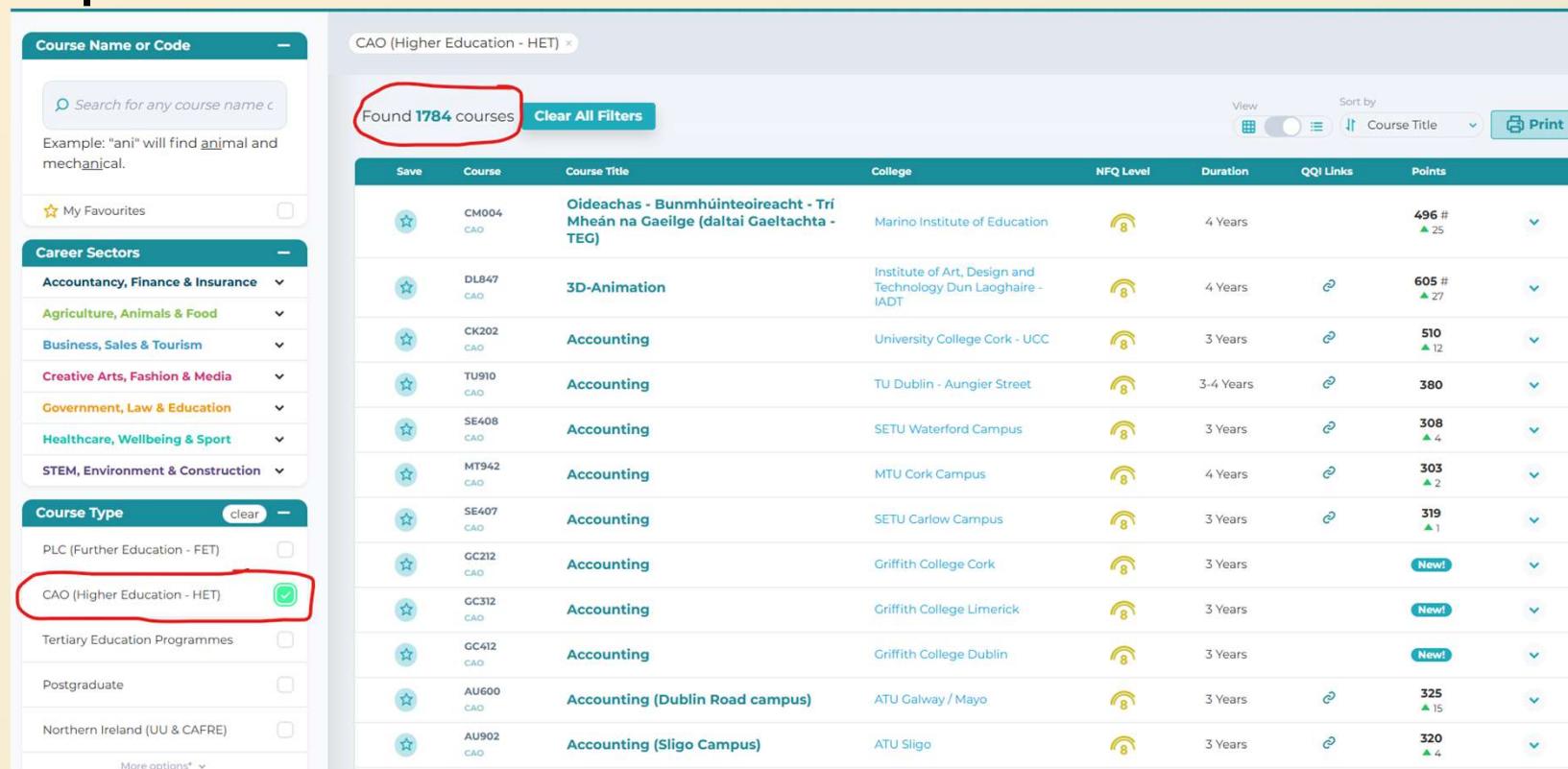
Biology, Chemistry and a language required for Medicine

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



The screenshot shows the homepage of careersportal.ie. At the top, there are three navigation tabs: EXPLORE, MEDIA, and TOOLS. Below this, a main heading reads "Career Guidance tools for all". There are three main buttons: "Join to create a Career Profile", "Discover your Career Interests" (with a CPIP logo), and "Match your Interests to Careers & Courses". Below these are two buttons: "START HERE!" and "MORE INFO". A navigation bar with tabs for Courses, Careers, Apprenticeships, Jobs, Career Sectors, and Site Search is visible. Below the navigation bar are two search input fields: "by Course Title or Code..." and "by College here...". A large blue button labeled "SEARCH COURSES" is highlighted with a red box. The main content area features several user profiles: "School" (second level student), "Graduates" (undergraduate/graduate), "Adult Learners" (returning to education), "Job Seekers" (upskilling, changing career, finding a job), "Parents" (understanding their child's education), and "Guidance / Teaching Professionals" (supporting guidance/teaching practice). A "Reach programme" section is also shown with a "View Details" button.

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



The screenshot shows a search interface for courses. On the left, there are filters for 'Course Name or Code' (with a search bar), 'Career Sectors' (Accountancy, Finance & Insurance; Agriculture, Animals & Food; Business, Sales & Tourism; Creative Arts, Fashion & Media; Government, Law & Education; Healthcare, Wellbeing & Sport; STEM, Environment & Construction), and 'Course Type' (PLC (Further Education - FET); CAO (Higher Education - HET) which is selected and highlighted with a red box; Tertiary Education Programmes; Postgraduate; Northern Ireland (JU & CAFRE); More options\*). The main area displays a table of 1784 courses found, with the following columns: Save, Course, Course Title, College, NFQ Level, Duration, QQI Links, and Points. The table lists various accounting courses from different colleges like Marino Institute of Education, Institute of Art, Design and Technology, University College Cork, TU Dublin, SETU Waterford Campus, MTU Cork Campus, SETU Carlow Campus, Griffith College Cork, Griffith College Limerick, Griffith College Dublin, ATU Galway / Mayo, and ATU Sligo, with points ranging from 303 to 496.

Save	Course	Course Title	College	NFQ Level	Duration	QQI Links	Points
	CM004 CAO	Oideachas - Bunmhúinteoiracht - Trí Mheán na Gaeilge (daltaí 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
CAO (Higher Education - HET)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DN250 CAO	Animal Science - Agricultural Science	University College Dublin - UCD	8	4 Years	▲ 31
Tertiary Education Programmes	<input type="checkbox"/>	DN250 CAO	Animal Science - Equine - Agricultural Science	University College Dublin - UCD	8	4 Years	431 ▲ 31
Postgraduate	<input type="checkbox"/>	DC204 CAO	Athletic Therapy and Training	Dublin City University - DCU	8	4-5 Years	554 ▼ -11
Northern Ireland (UU & CAFRE)	<input type="checkbox"/>	TR060 CAO	Biological and Biomedical Sciences	Trinity College Dublin - TCD	8	4 Years	554 * ▼
More options*	<input type="checkbox"/>	CK402 CAO	Biological and Chemical Sciences	University College Cork - UCC	8	4 Years	532 ▼ -1
AO Entry Requirements <span>clear</span>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LM123 CAO	Biological and Chemical Sciences (Common Entry)	University of Limerick - UL	8	4 Years	484 ▼ -4
CAO Points	<input type="checkbox"/>	MH203 CAO	Biological and Geographical Sciences	Maynooth University	8	4 Years	419 ▲ 9
New CAO courses for 2026	<input type="checkbox"/>	CK404 CAO	Biological, Environmental and Geological Sciences	University College Cork - UCC	8	4 Years	487 ▲ 2
No Maths required	<input type="checkbox"/>	LM092 CAO	Biology with Chemistry, Physics, Ag Science - Teacher Education)	University of Limerick - UL	8	4 Years	488 ▼ -11
Accepts Foundation Maths	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUB66 CAO	Biomedical and Molecular Diagnostics	TU Dublin - Grangegorman	8	4 Years	489 ▲ 14
Accepts Ordinary Maths	<input type="checkbox"/>	GY408 CAO	Biomedical Engineering	University of Galway - UG	8	4 Years	568 ▼ -10
Lab Science required <span>checked</span>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GY303 CAO	Biomedical Science	University of Galway - UC	8	4 Years	566 ▼ -11
Lab Science not required	<input type="checkbox"/>	MT871 CAO	Biomedical Science (Joint MTU & UCC course)	University College Cork - UCC	8	4 Years	555 * ▼ -1
Modern Language required	<input type="checkbox"/>	MT871 CAO	Biomedical Science (Joint UCC & MTU course)	MTU Cork Campus	8	4 Years	555 * ▼ -1
Modern Language not required	<input type="checkbox"/>	DN440 CAO	Biomedical, Health and Life Sciences	University College Dublin - UCD	8	4 Years	589 * ▼ -11
Restricted courses only	<input type="checkbox"/>	GY318	Bio pharmaceutical Chemistry	University of Galway - UG	8	4 Years	532 ▼
CAO Language Options <span>+</span>	<input type="checkbox"/>						

**WWW.CAREERSPORTAL.IE** very good for finding out information on subjects for the leaving certificate

The screenshot shows the homepage of careers portal.ie. The top navigation bar includes 'careers portal.ie', 'COMMUNITIES ▾', 'EXPLORE ▾', 'MEDIA ▾', 'TOOLS ▾', 'Accessibility Tools', 'Join', and 'Log in'. A search bar is on the right. The main menu on the left has categories: 'School' (selected), 'Graduates', 'Adult Learners', 'Job Seekers', 'Parents', and 'Guidance Professionals'. A sub-menu for 'School' lists: 'JUNIOR CYCLE', 'TRANSITION YEAR', 'LEAVING CERT', 'LEAVING CERT RESULTS GUIDE', 'STUDY SKILLS', 'STUDENT SUPPORTS', 'GOING TO COLLEGE', 'CAREER ADVICE', 'FINDING A JOB', and 'APPRENTICESHIPS & TRAINEESHIPS'. Below this is a testimonial box for 'Niamh Cacciato, Solicitor' with a photo and the text: 'What subjects did you take in school and how have these influenced your career path?'. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Construction Studies', 'Engineering', and 'Technology', with 'Science Group' highlighted in purple.



COMMUNITIES

EXPLORE

MEDIA

TOOLS

SEARCH

## 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



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

## Science Group

# 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