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, formely 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

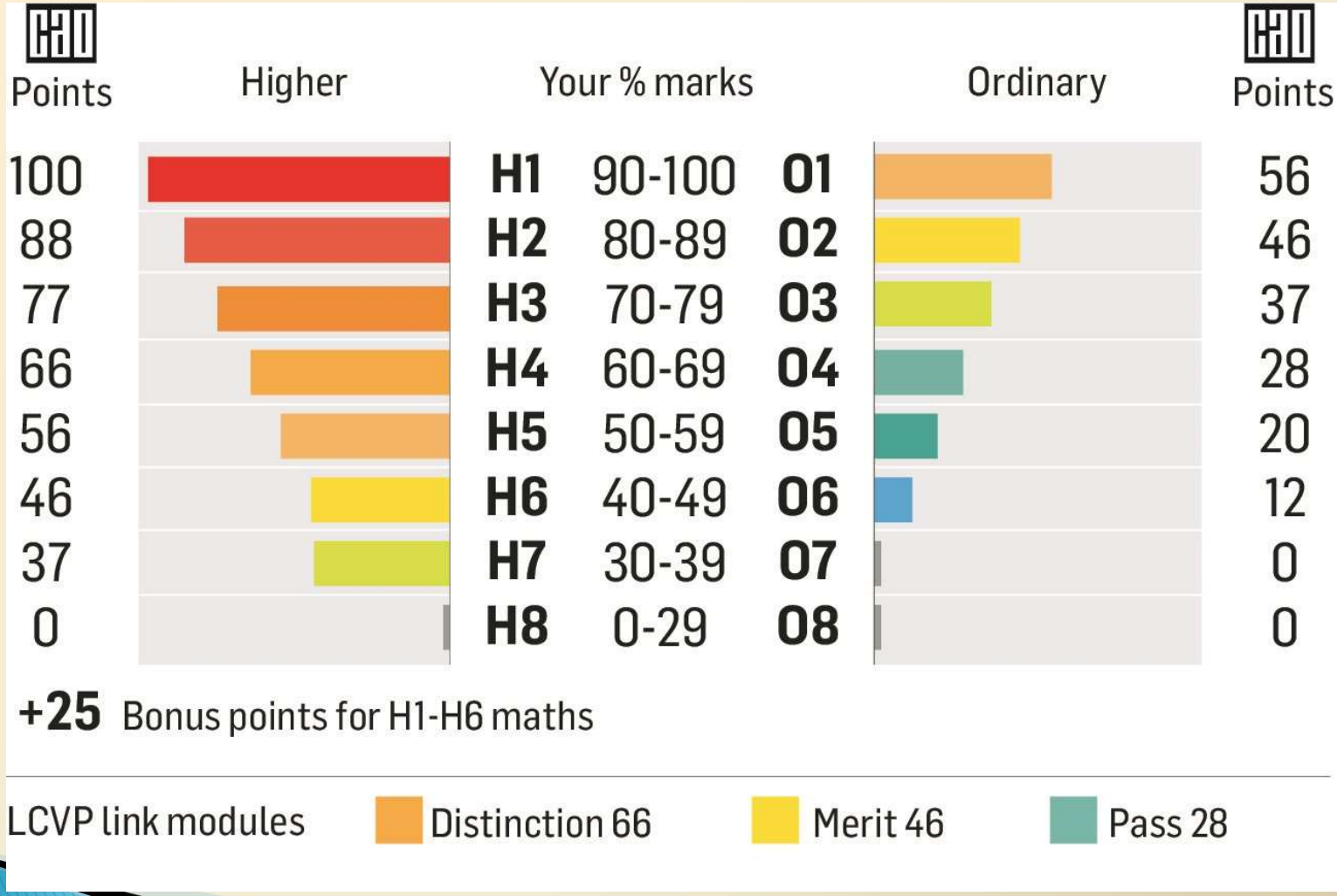
- **Likely to be unhappy in class for two years – lack motivation**
- **Likely not to do well – affects overall attainment**
- **Not having the right subject for a course after school**
- **May want to change subjects in 5th year. the school will try to facilitate this but cannot always do so and changing 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:

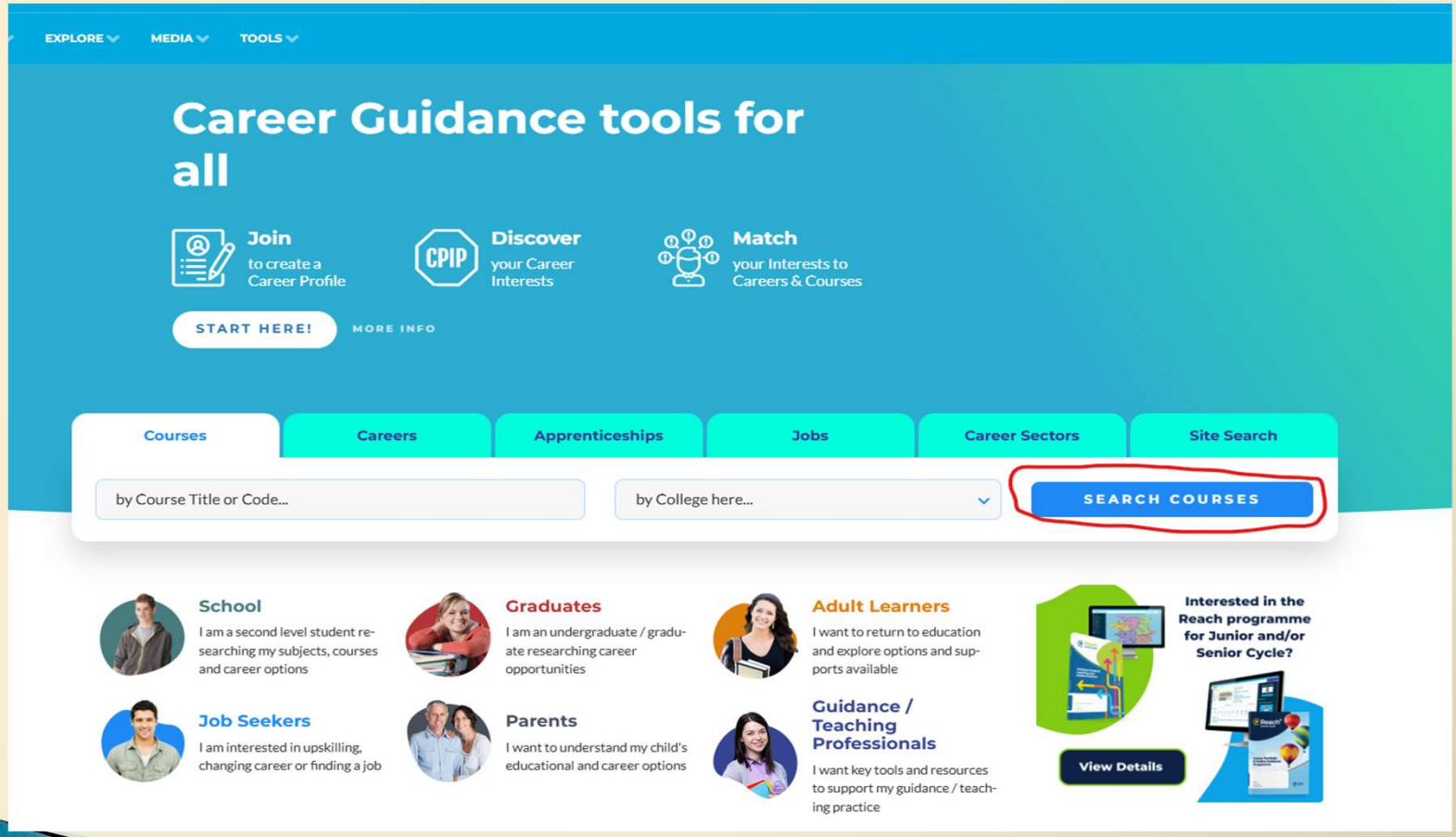
Third language required for NUI colleges with the exception of Science, Nursing and Engineering

H4 in Irish for Primary School Teacher

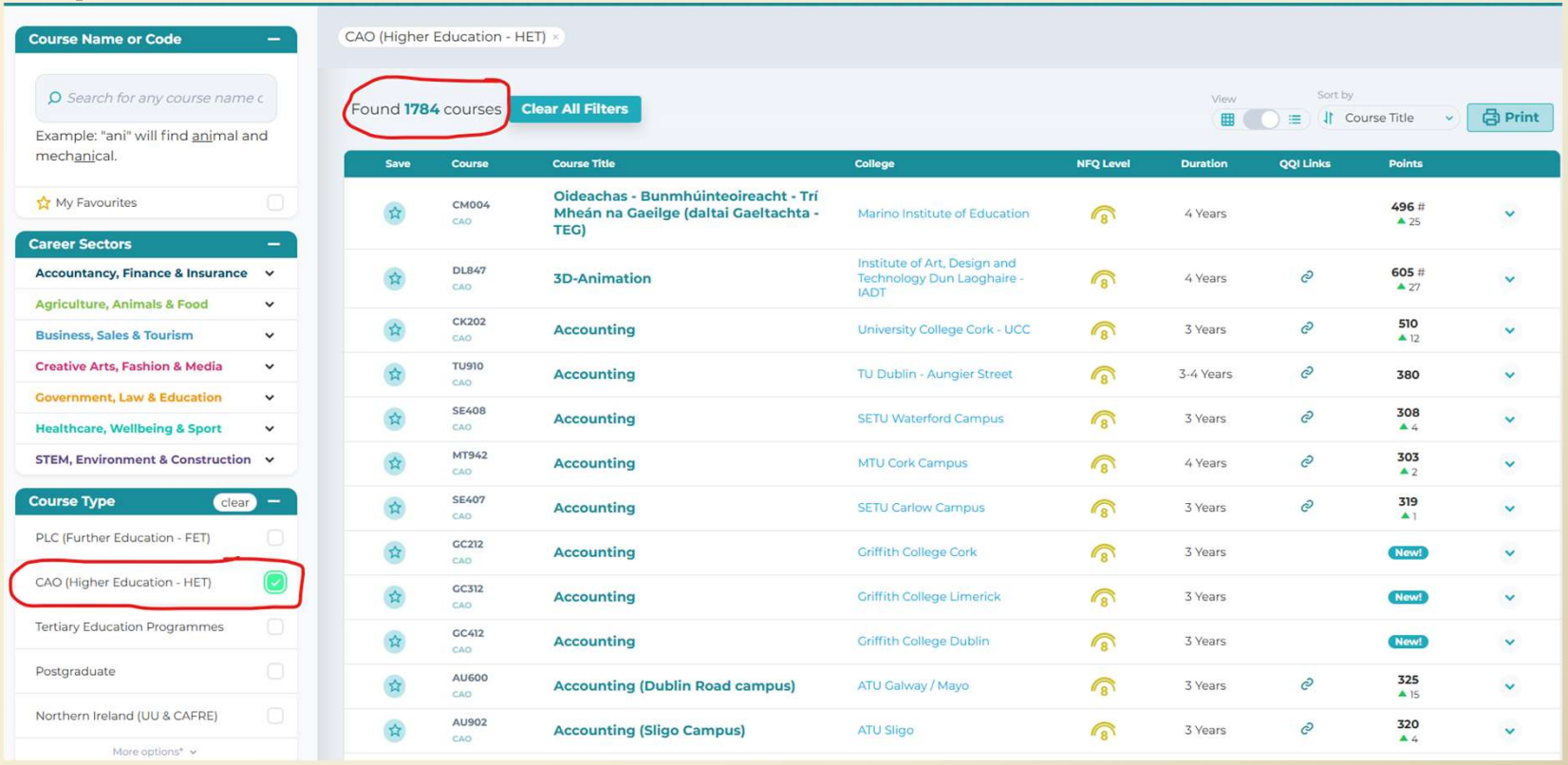
Chemistry is required for Pharmacy, Dietetics

Biology, Chemistry and a language required for Medicine

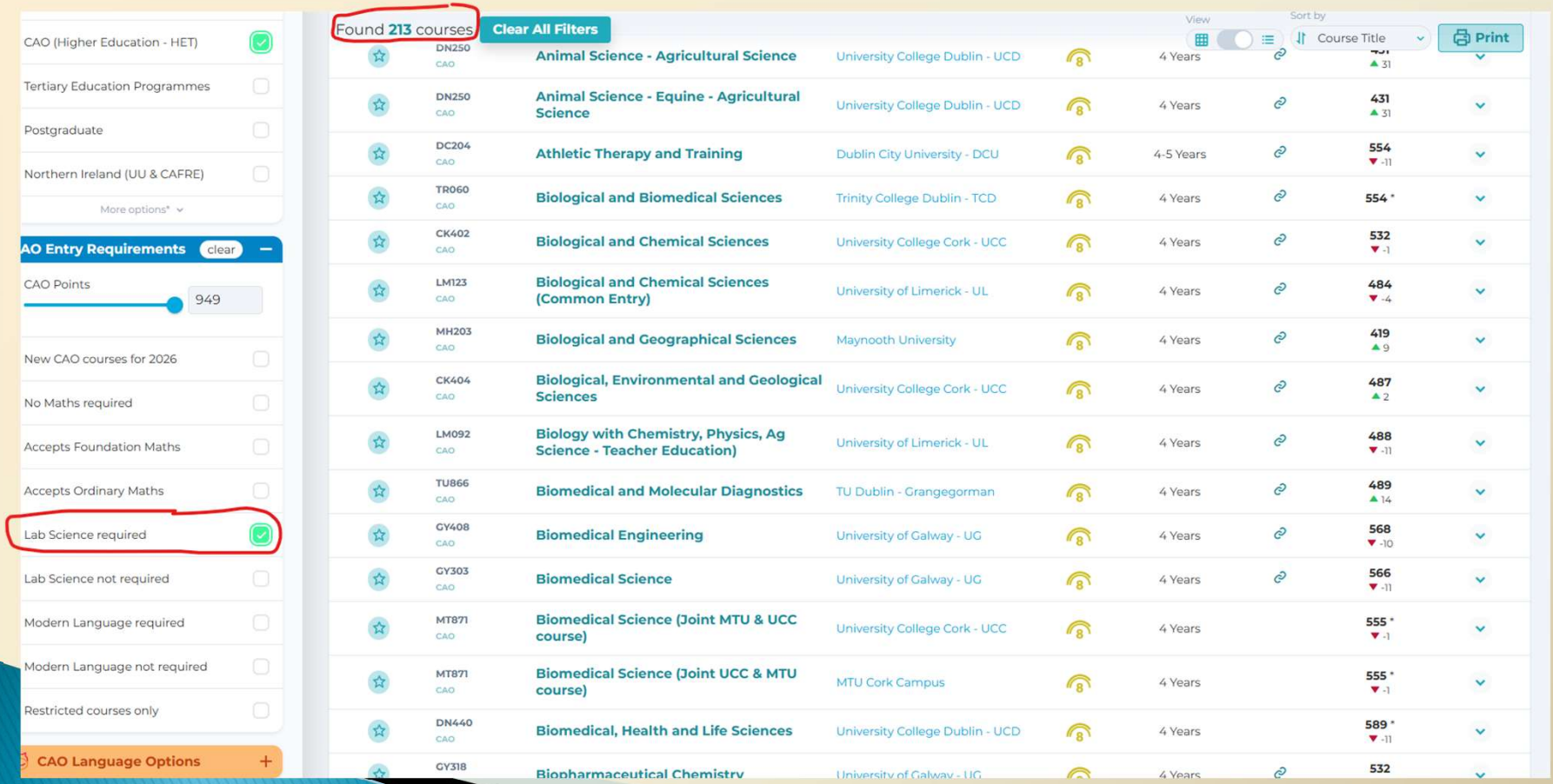
- A great website for checking course requirements is www.careersportal.ie
- Click on search courses



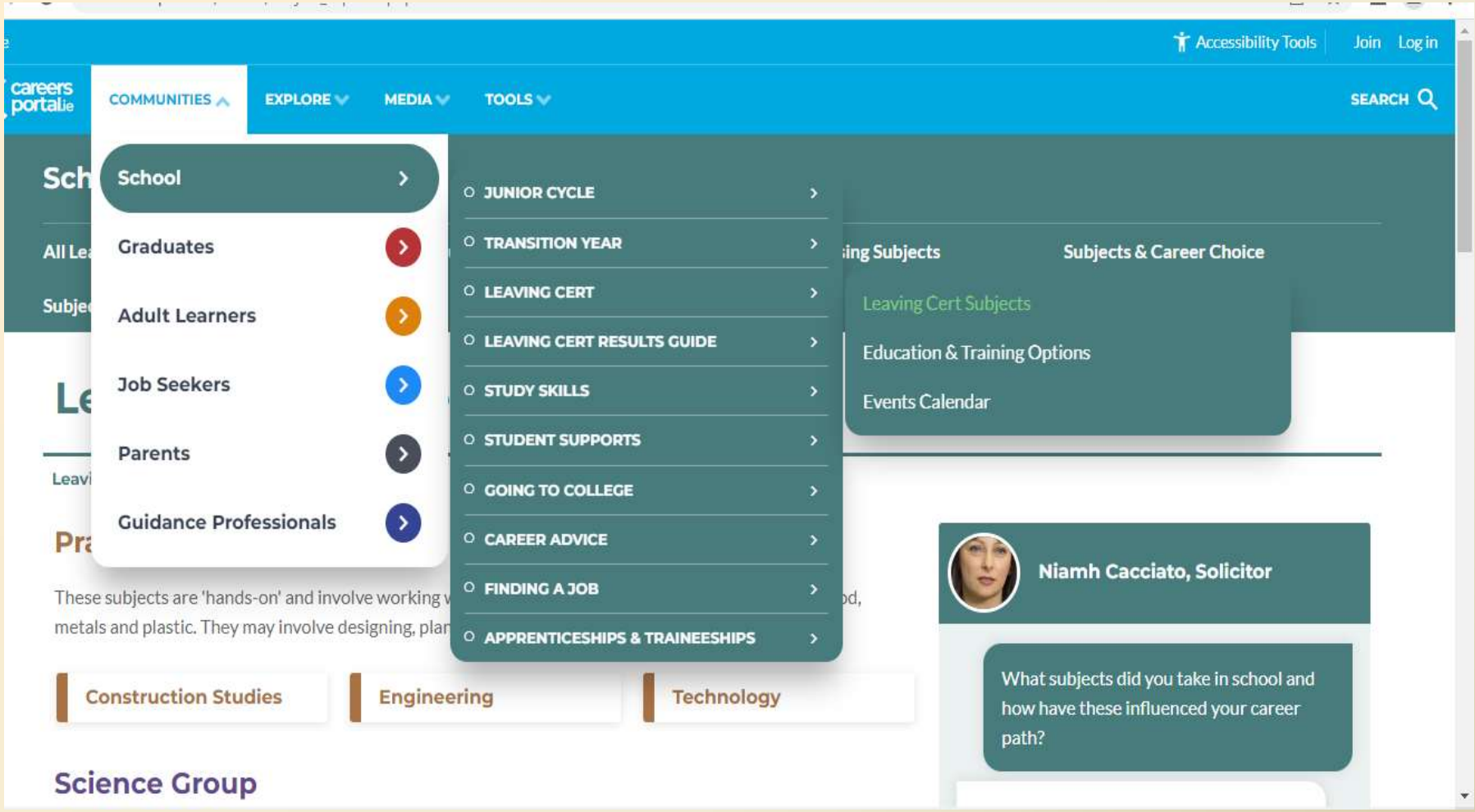
- When you click on search courses you can then filter your search. Firstly click on CAO higher education and 1784 courses will come up



- 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.



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



careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer.php

careers portal.ie 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

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 for general career and course information
- www.qualifax.ie for specific information on all courses including PLC courses
- www.cao.ie for information on points
- www.apprenticeship.ie for information on apprenticeships
- www.ballyhauniscs.ie/departments/guidance/
- The colleges own websites

FINALLY!

- Choose subjects you **<u>like</u>** **&** are **<u>good</u>** 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

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