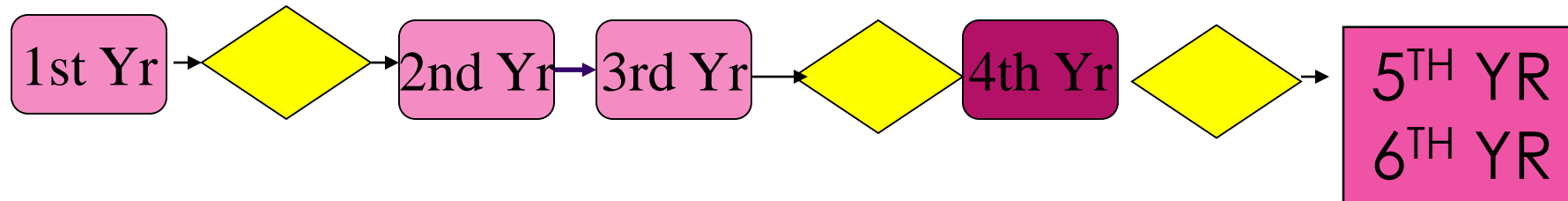




**Junior Cycle
Subject
Choice 2024**
WELCOME

Subject Choice Path through Skibbereen Community School



At various stages along the way students choose their subject choices. In first year all students follow a taster programme and sample all optional subjects. They must now make choices and decide what subjects they will take for second and third year.

Choose 4 Optional Subjects- one must be French or Spanish

▶ Open choice (3)

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





1st year : **KEY Decision**

What 4 option subjects will I take for Junior Cycle, one of which must be French or Spanish?



Think about a student's Interests

- ▶ Identify the subjects you like
- ▶ Think about the subjects you like to work at and enjoy learning about.
- ▶ Take interest assessments, discover what is your learning style
 - ▶ www.qualifax.ie
 - ▶ www.careersportal.ie (CPIP)





Think next about a student's aptitudes/abilities

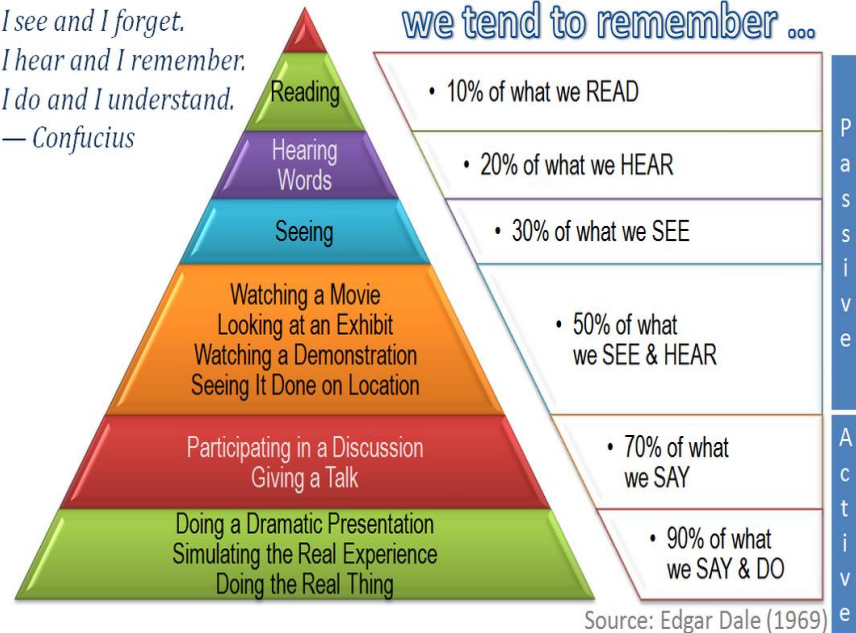
- ▶ Identify what subjects you enjoy and show competency in.
- ▶ Consider
 - Homework tasks or test results
 - Teachers comments
 - The student's general attitude to the subject
 - How the student feels about doing homework in that subject?
 - how the student feels about going into class in that subject ?

How do you like to Learn?

The Cone of Learning

sparkinsight.com

*I see and I forget.
I hear and I remember.
I do and I understand.*
— Confucius



Consider

- ▶ Do you like reading and learning factual information?
- ▶ Do you prefer practical hands on tasks?
- ▶ Do you enjoy discussion and analysing information?
- ▶ How are you at problem solving?
- ▶ Are you creative and enjoy expressing yourself through Music, Art etc?
- ▶ Do you prefer project work or assignments or are you happier completing exams?



Future Career/ Study path

- ▶ It's good to encourage discussion and reflection on possible careers and future study possibilities even from a young age.
- ▶ Important to be mindful that junior cycle subjects have an impact on senior cycle subject choices.
- ▶ Skills and Knowledge learned in subjects at Junior Cycle are built and expanded upon in the majority of Senior Cycle subjects

Junior Cycle- status Quo

Core Subjects

English

Irish

Maths

Science

History

Wellbeing

Options Subjects (4 in total)

3 Option Subjects plus a language

- Art
- Business
- Geography
- Home Economics
- Engineering
- Music
- Technical Graphics
- Woodwork

Senior Cycle- Status Quo

► Core Subjects

English

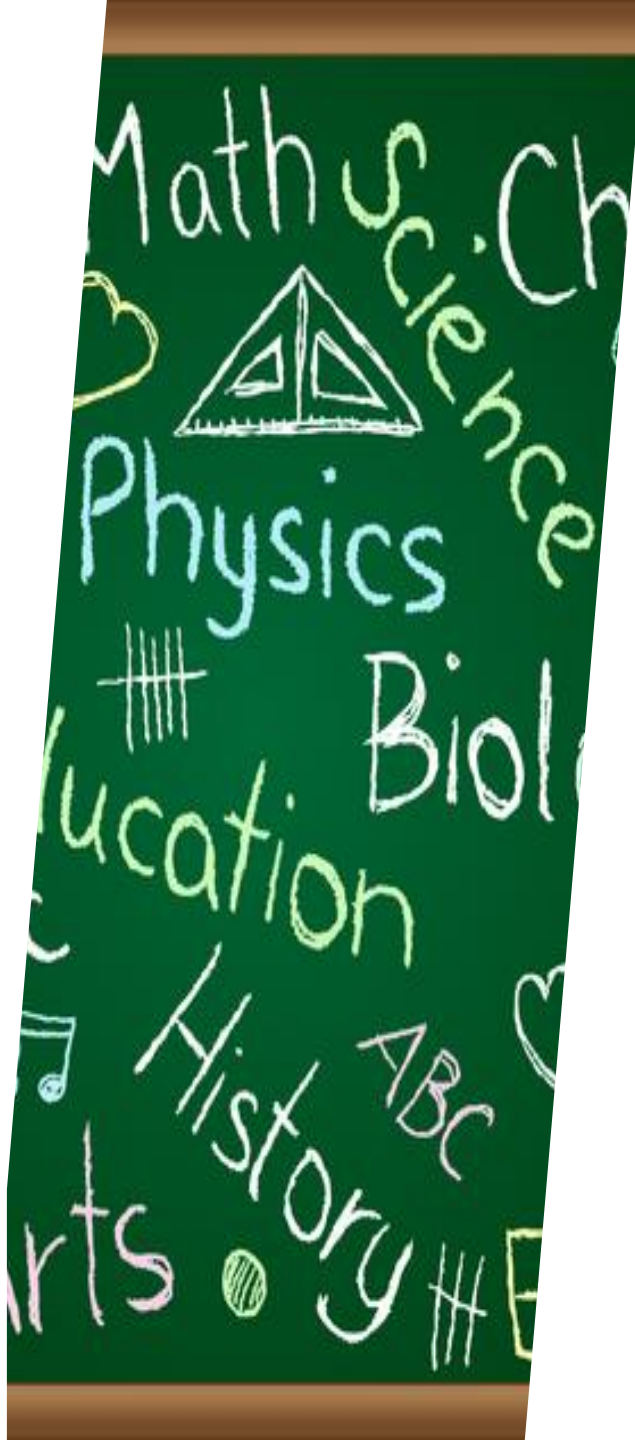
Irish

Maths

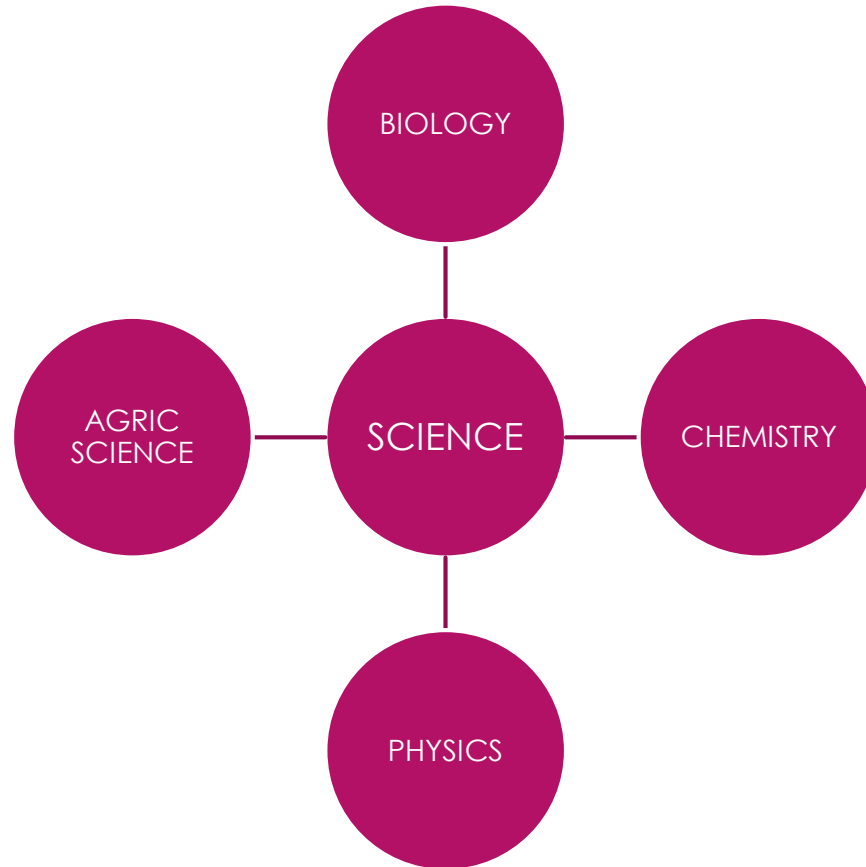
Plus RE, PE, Guidance

► Options Subjects (4 in total)

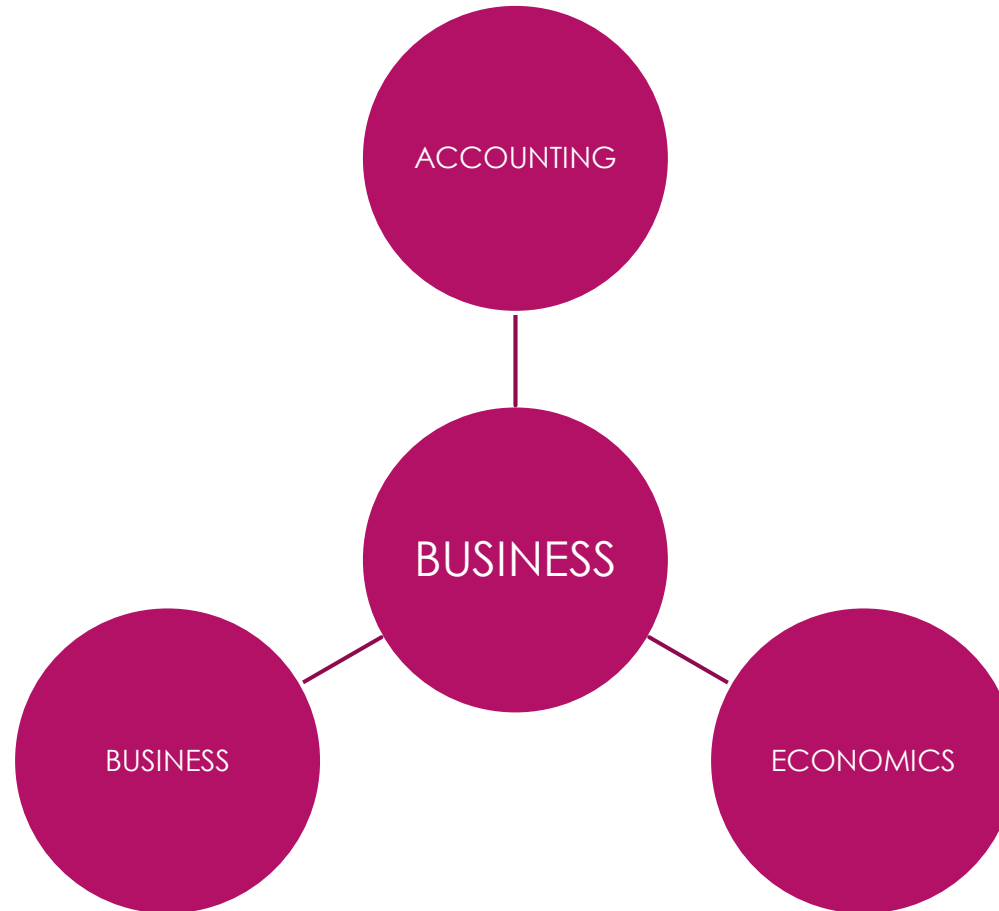
- Accounting
- Agricultural Science
- Art
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Economics
- Engineering
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- Music
- Physics
- Design & Communications Graphics
- Construction
- French
- Spanish
- Physical Education



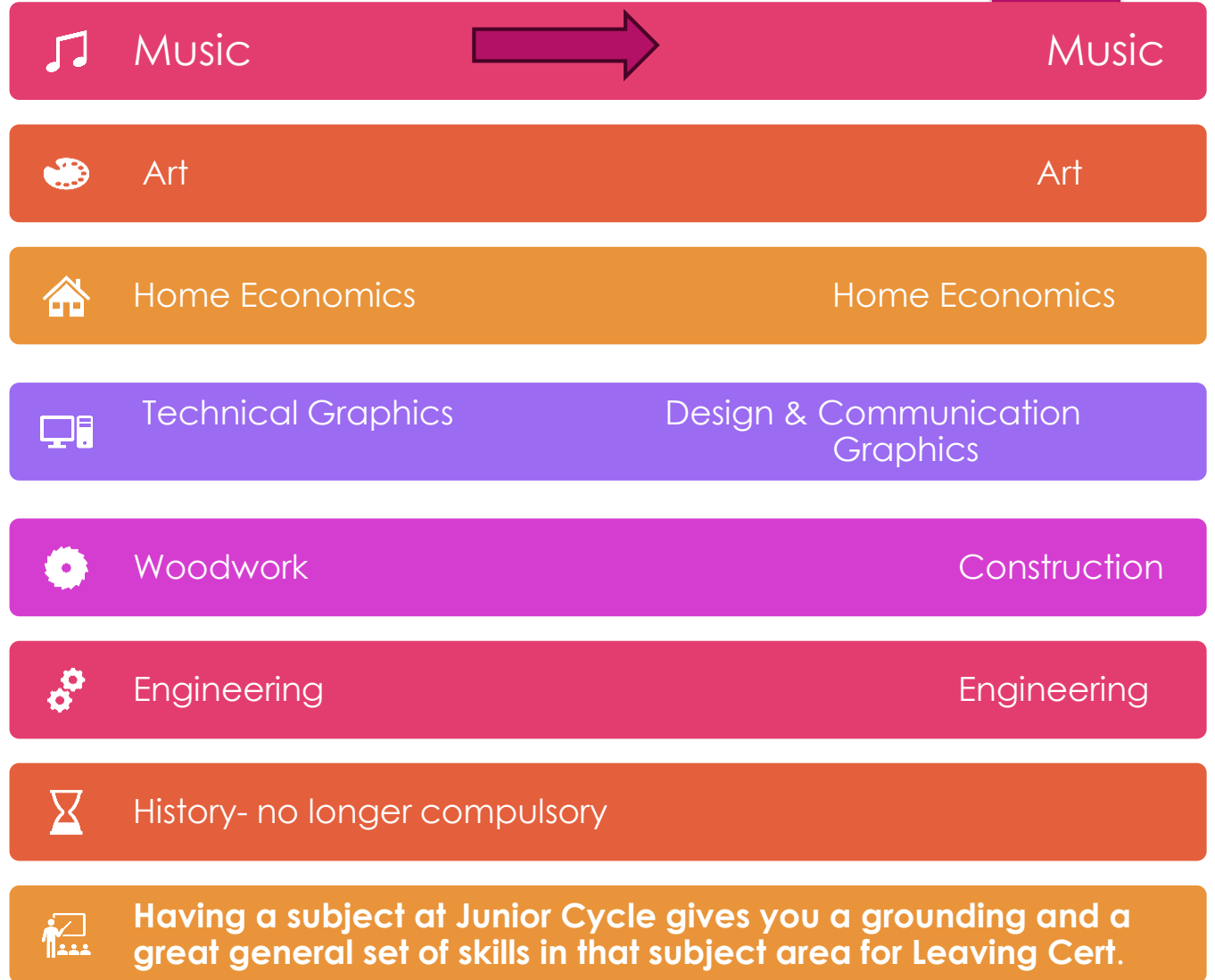
How subjects change after the Junior Cycle : Science



How subjects change after the Junior Cycle: Business

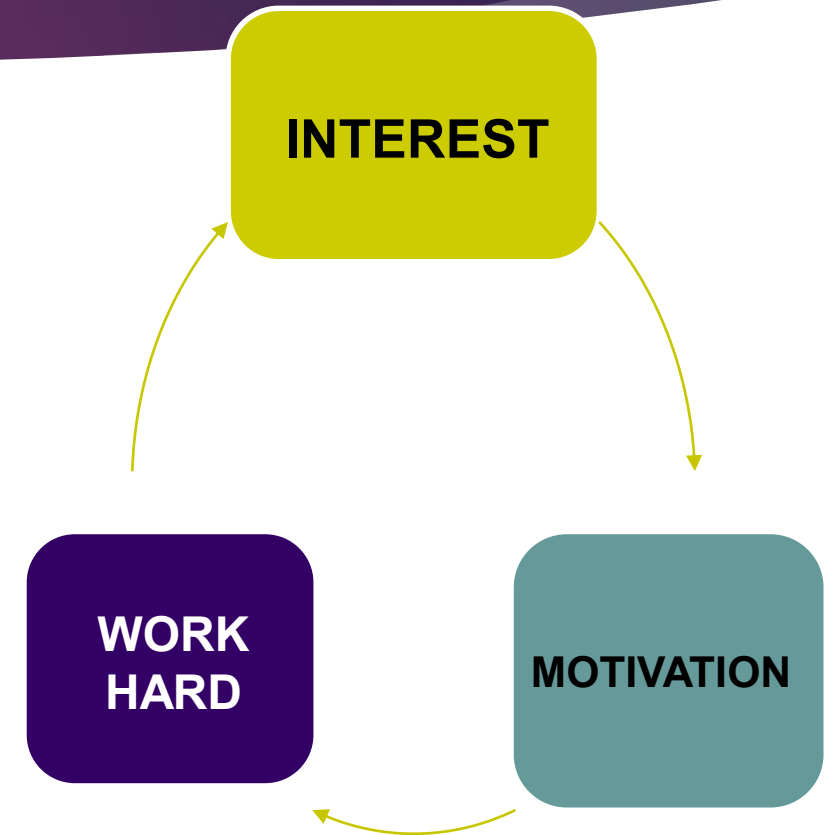


How subjects change after the Junior Cycle





- ✓ Choose the subjects you like best.
- ✓ It is easier to do well.
- ✓ Genuine interest is important in terms of motivation.



Useful Questions



Q: What subjects do you really like at present?

Q: What subjects tend to consistently bring you good results?

Q: Do you know enough about the subject at Junior Cycle?

Q: Are you choosing because of friends/ teachers?

Q: Have you thought about how your choices at Junior Cycle can impact on your choices for Senior Cycle

Q: What subjects are essential/ desirable for the career/course you might like after school?



Who can help students decide?

➤ **Parents**

Play a major role when it comes to Subject Choice decisions. (ESRI 2011)

➤ **Teachers**

They will discuss what their subject is like for Junior Cycle.

➤ **Past Pupils & Older Siblings**

ask those who are already studying subjects at senior cycle what they think of them

➤ **Guidance Counsellors in SCS**

fionaronan@skibbereencommunityschool.ie

Make sure to ask questions regarding subjects and future goals.

N.B. remember everyone has different opinions on subjects

– if they say they like or dislike a subject, ask them why!

& Look up - Subject Textbooks ,Exam Papers – www.examinations.ie , www.studyclix.ie

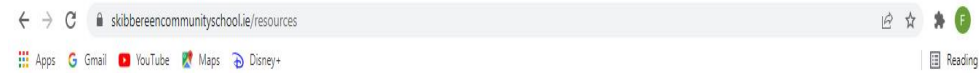
Online Research

- www.careersportal.ie (very comprehensive and links to NCCA's curriculum on line fact sheets)
- www.curriculumonline.ie (allows you to learn more about what you will learn in every JC subject and has short videos on each subject)
- www.jct.ie information on the new junior cycle



School website

www.skibbereencommunityschool.ie



SKIBBEREEN COMMUNITY
SCHOOL

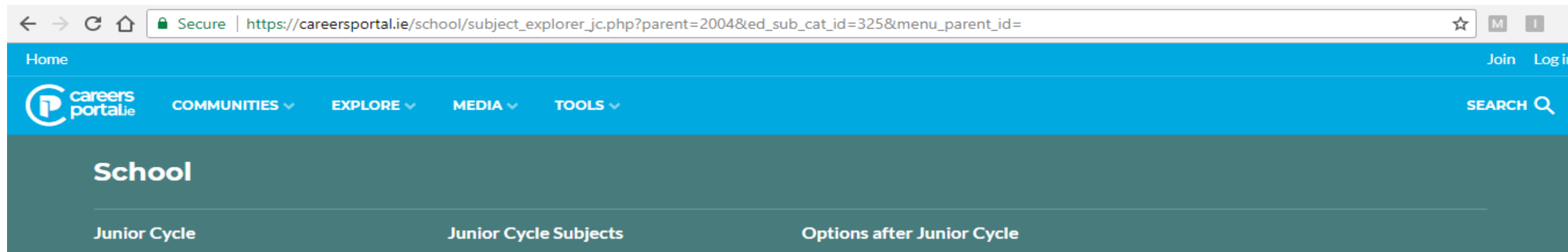
HOME ENROLMENT ABOUT US VIRTUAL TOUR COVID-19 GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING
SCHOOL LIFE GALLERY PARENT ZONE CONTACT VSWARE



Please go to Parent Zone, then Resources to access to information which include

- slides on each of the option subject we offer at Junior cycle
- Gives information on what this subject is about
- Type of assessment procedure for the Junior Cycle
- What careers this subject connects with in a broad sense

<https://careersportal.ie/>



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL https://careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer_jc.php?parent=2004&ed_sub_cat_id=325&menu_parent_id=. The page features a blue header with the 'careersportal.ie' logo and navigation links: 'Home', 'COMMUNITIES', 'EXPLORE', 'MEDIA', and 'TOOLS'. A search bar is located on the right side of the header. Below the header, a dark teal banner displays the word 'School' in large white text. Underneath 'School', there are three white text links: 'Junior Cycle', 'Junior Cycle Subjects', and 'Options after Junior Cycle'.

Junior Certificate Subjects

The following subjects are offered in the Junior Cycle in schools and colleges through Ireland. Subjects are normally studied at either Ordinary or Higher Level, although two subjects, Irish and Mathematics, can also be studied at Foundation Level.

Junior Cycle lies within the compulsory period of education and is usually taken by students between the ages of 12 and 15. The aims and intended outcomes of Junior Cycle emphasise the importance of students experiencing a broad, balanced and coherent programme of study across a wide range of curriculum areas in order to prepare them for transition to Senior Cycle education. This is achieved by ensuring that students encounter an educational programme that covers a number of areas of experience.

Students from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds and those viewed as at risk of leaving school early may follow the **Junior Certificate School Programme**.

Note: [SC] indicates that the course is one of the recently introduced Short Courses

Junior Cycle Subjects

Geography

- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT
- HOW ITS USEFUL
- CAREERS IT CONNECTS WITH
- LINKS TO FULL SUBJECT CURRICULUM

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

In Geography you will study about places, people and what shapes the environment. You will learn how the environment influences people, and how they change the environment. You will develop your ability to draw and understand maps, graphs and diagrams, as well as studying photographs and collecting information outside the classroom through fieldwork.

How will Geography be useful to me?

Everybody uses geography in their daily lives. When you think of where to go on holiday or wonder what tomorrow's weather will be like, you are thinking geography. When you look at an atlas map, or a town plan, or a weather map, you use what we learn in Geography. 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.

CAREER GUIDANCE

Subject Group: Humanities

Career Sectors

This subject builds skills and knowledge that are particularly useful for careers in the following Career Sectors:



Earth & Environment



Education & Teaching



Farming, Horticulture & Forestry



Tourism & Hospitality



Transport & Logistics

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Junior Cycle website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, Wellbeing, Whole School, Leadership, Subjects, Short Courses, L1LPs/L2LPs, and Publications. Below the menu is a header with the text "An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí" and the "Junior CYCLE for teachers" logo. A date indicator shows "5:26pm 18th of Oct. 2018". A welcome message from Dr. Pádraig Kirk, Director of CPD for Junior Cycle, is displayed with a small profile picture. A sidebar on the left contains links for Contact Us, Meet the Team, Registration for CPD, Join our Mailing Lists, and Recruitment. The main content area features a grid of subject tiles: English, Science, Business Studies, Gaeilge, Modern Foreign Languages, Maths, Music, Geography, History, and Home Economics. Below these are four tiles for L1LPs / L2LPs, Classroom Strategies, Leadership, and Wellbeing. At the bottom, there are three sections: Announcements (with a post from 17 October 2018 about Business Studies assessment tasks), Events Calendar (showing "No JCT events today" for 18 Oct 2018), and a Twitter feed from @JCForTeachers.

Screen shot of www.jct.ie website

- Junior Cycle framework
- Full subject specification
- Key dates for CBA's
- Information leaflets on each subject

Key piece of advice



Do a subject because you like it and are happy to work at it



The Process on line via the Schools website





Go to School website and Click on VS WARE Tab



Login

Password

Sign In

A username and password will be sent to parent/guardian by text.
Use your Login and Password to Sign in to VSWare as you would to access student school reports

Go to the Drop down Menu and click into Subject Options

The screenshot shows a web-based timetable interface. On the left, there is a vertical navigation menu with two items: 'Student Options' (with a blue icon) and 'Timetable' (with a red icon). A red arrow points from the 'Timetable' item towards the main grid. The main grid is a 5x5 table of subject blocks. The rows represent time slots: 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, and 14:00. The columns represent different subject areas. Each block contains the subject name, teacher name, and a reference code.

Time Slot	Subject 1	Subject 2	Subject 3	Subject 4	Subject 5
9:00	Mathematics F23 Ms. Orla Courtney; Mr. John McCarthy 1Mat-D 09:40 - 10:20	Business G87 Mr. Maurice Moore 1Bus-D 09:40 - 10:20	Technical Graphics G55 Mr. Richie Keating 1TG-2.1-R2 09:40 - 10:20	Science G70 Ms. Mags Breen 1Sci-D 09:00 - 09:40	Irish F49 Ms. Mary O'Driscoll 1Ir-5.4 09:00 - 09:40
10:00	Business G87 Mr. Maurice Moore 1Bus-D 10:30 - 11:10	Geography F27 Ms. Nicola Deane 1Geo-D 10:30 - 11:10	English F53 Ms. Michelle O'Brien 1Eng-D 10:30 - 11:10	Music F42 Ms. Colette Brennan 1Mus-1.1-R2 10:30 - 11:10	Business G87 Mr. Maurice Moore 1Bus-D 10:30 - 11:10
11:00	Social, Personal and Health Education F30 Mr. Peter Lynch 1SPHE-D 11:10 - 11:50	English F53 Ms. Michelle O'Brien 1Eng-D 11:10 - 11:50	French F29 Mr. John Sugrue 1Fre-D 11:10 - 11:50	Music F42 Ms. Colette Brennan 1Mus-1.1-R2 11:10 - 11:50	Civic, Social & Political Educ. F29 Mr. John Sugrue 1CSPE-D 11:10 - 11:50
12:00	Irish F55 Ms. Mary O'Driscoll 1Ir-D 11:50 - 12:30	Irish F49 Ms. Mary O'Driscoll 1Ir-5.4 11:50 - 12:30	Materials Technology (Wood) G52 CONSTRUCTION Mr. Michael Murphy 1MatT-4.1-R2 11:50 - 12:30	Spanish Ms. Gillian O'Farrell 1Spa-3.1-R2 11:50 - 12:30	English F53 Ms. Michelle O'Brien 1Eng-D 11:50 - 12:30
13:00	French F29 Mr. John Sugrue 1Fre-D 12:30 - 13:10	Project Mathematics F33 Mr. John McCarthy; Mr. P.J. Whoolley 1PJM-D 12:30 - 13:10	Materials Technology (Wood) G52 CONSTRUCTION Mr. Michael Murphy 1MatT-4.1-R2 12:30 - 13:10	Spanish F28 Ms. Gillian O'Farrell 1Spa-3.1-R2 12:30 - 13:10	Geography F27 Ms. Nicola Deane 1Geo-D 12:30 - 13:10
14:00	Religious Education F17 Ms. Orla O'Sullivan 1Ref-6.4 13:50 - 14:30	Science G70 Ms. Mags Breen 1Sci-D 13:50 - 14:30		Physical Education G111 Mrs. Máire Keating 1PE-D 13:50 - 14:30	Mathematics F23 Mr. John McCarthy; Ms. Orla Courtney 1Mat-D 13:50 - 14:30
	Geography F27 Ms. Nicola Deane 1Geo-D 14:30 - 15:10	Religious Education F08 Ms. Rosie O'Brien 1Ref-6.4 14:30 - 15:10		Physical Education G111 Mrs. Máire Keating 1PE-D 14:30 - 15:10	Mathematics F23 Ms. Orla Courtney; Mr. John McCarthy 1Mat-D 14:30 - 15:10

No Filter

Subject Set 1

Student Options

Timetable

Preference Number	Subject Choice
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	



No Filter

Subject Set 1

Preference Number	Subject Choice
1	FRENCH
2	GEOGRAPHY
3	MATERIALS TECHNOLOG
4	TECHNICAL GRAPHICS
5	HOME ECONOMICS
6	MUSIC



Include your **6** Option subjects
Place your Language option
(French/Spanish) as your first
subject

Then put in your option subjects in
order of preference

We will aim to give you your top 4
choices

Options entry completed

Task for now

- ▶ Start researching your subjects of interest
- ▶ Log onto the school website and go to the VSWare tab when you receive your password and username
- ▶ Fill in your preferences before the closing date of Wednesday 20th March

Year Head

majellanicharthaigh@skibbereencommunityschool.ie

Guidance counsellor

fionaronan@skibbereencommunityschool.ie





Junior Cycle Subject Choice



Thank you





Visual Art

Aim: *“This course aims to develop the expressive, communicative and functional modes of art, craft and design in the individual within the art class with drawing as the central activity.”*

Four main areas:

1. Art (drawing: life, still life)
2. Design (layout, composition, lettering)
3. Crafts (pottery, puppetry, embroidery & collage etc)
4. History & Appreciation

Examination:

CBA 1 (2nd Year) From Process to Realisation

CBA 2 (3rd Year) Communicate & Reflect

SEC Examination: No assessment Task or Final Drawing Examination. Students must submit 2 Artifacts + a Communicate & Reflect Form in 3rd year

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

<https://curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-Subjects/Visual-Art/Rationale/>





Business Studies



Business Studies is concerned with understanding the environment in which business operates including households.

3 Main Sections:

- 1) Personal Finance
- 2) Our Economy
- 3) Enterprise

Examination :

CBA 1 (2nd Year) Business in Action

CBA 2 (3rd Year) Presentation

SEC Examination: 90% Written Test (1 Common Paper).
10% Assessment Task

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

<https://curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-Subjects/Business-Studies/Rationale/>





Modern Foreign Languages

Compulsory that a foreign language is kept on for Junior Cycle -
Choice between **French or Spanish**.

3 Strands: 1) Communicative Competence 2) Language Awareness
3) Socio-cultural Knowledge & Cultural Awareness

For 4 of the 7 universities you need a foreign language (exceptions:
Science, Nursing and Engineering).

Examination :

CBA 1 (2nd Year) Oral Examination

CBA 2 (3rd Year) Language Portfolio

SEC Examination: 90% Final Exam (1 Common Paper). (Aural 35%)
10% Assessment Task

Careers/Courses: European Studies, Marketing, Hotel Management,
Translation, EU, Teaching, Cadets, Tourism & Leisure.

<https://curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-Subjects/Modern-Foreign-Languages/Rationale/>



Graphics

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

What will you do:

- produce neat drawings of everyday items
- create models on the computer
- sketching, colouring and shading of objects
- make cardboard / paper cut-outs of items

Examination:

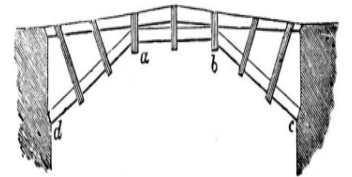
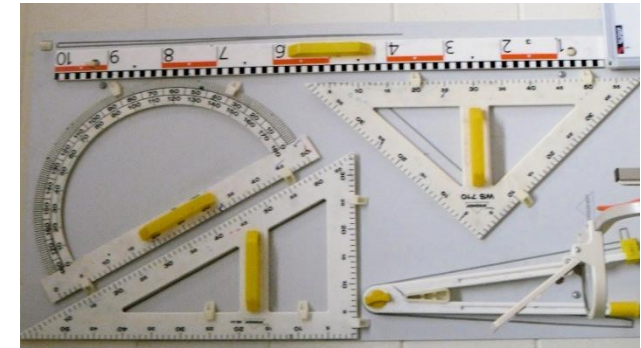
CBA 1 (2nd Year) Communication through Sketching

CBA 2 (3rd Year) Graphical Presentation Skills

SEC Examination: Project 70% & Written Examination 30%

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

<https://curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-Subjects/Graphics/Rationale/>



Engineering



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

What will you do:

- examine properties of metal/wood/plastics
- examine how things work
- freehand sketching
- joining and assembling materials
- learn about basic electronic components

Examination:

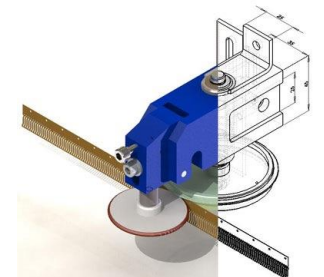
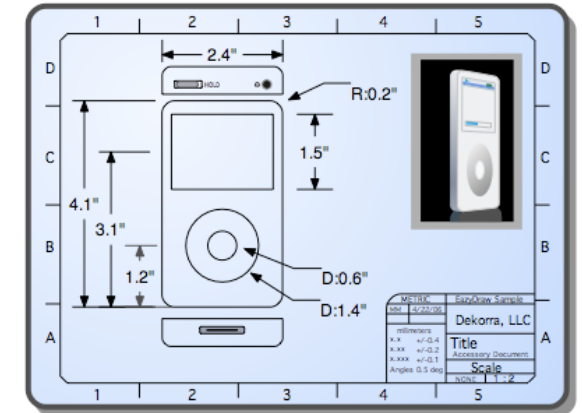
CBA 1 (2nd Year) Engineering in Action

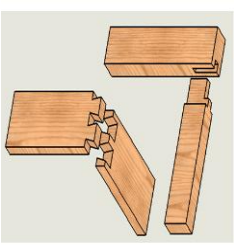
CBA 2 (3rd Year) Research & Development

SEC Examination: Project 70% & Written Examination 30%

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

<https://curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-Subjects/Engineering/Rationale/>





Wood Technology

In Woodwork you will 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 & Folder
- 4) Woodwork theory

Examination:

CBA 1 (2nd Year) Wood Science in our Environment

CBA 2 (3rd Year) Student Self-analysis & Evaluation

SEC Examination: Project 70% & Written Examination 30%

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

<https://curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-Subjects/WoodTechnology/Rationale/>



Geography

Geography is the study of the Earth's landscapes, peoples, places, and environments. It adheres to the scientific method and pursues scientific principles and logic. The study of geography empowers the person to explore and understand the world around them.

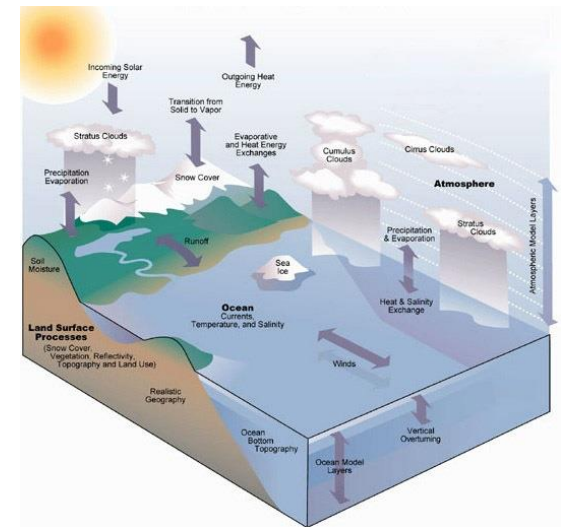
What will you learn?

1. The Human Habitat - Processes and Change
2. Population, Settlement Patterns and Urbanisation
3. Patterns in Economic Activity

Examination : 90% Written Test (1 Common Paper).
10% Assessment Task

Careers/Courses: Town planning, Teaching, Engineering, Geology.

<https://curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-Subjects/Geography/>





History



What will you learn?

How we find out about the past: historian, ancient civilisation – a, medieval society, renaissance.

Studies of Change: exploration, reformation, plantation in Ireland

Modern Ireland: 20th century, international relations.

Examination : 90% Written Test (1 Common Paper).
10% Assessment Task

Careers/Courses: Local Government, Law, Media,
Archaeology, Museum Work, Librarian, Civil Service.



<https://curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-Subjects/History/Rationale/>



Home Economics



Junior Cycle Home Economics develops the knowledge, understanding, skills and values necessary to achieve optimal, healthy and sustainable living for every person as an individual, and as a member of families and society.

3 Strands:

- 1) Food, Health & Culinary skills
- 2) Responsible Family living
- 3) Textiles & Craft

Examination:

CBA 1 (2nd Year) Creative Textiles

CBA 2 (3rd Year) Food Literacy Skills Brief

SEC Examination: Cookery Exam 50% & Written Exam 50%



<https://curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-Subjects/Home-Economics/Rationale/>



Music



In Junior Certificate Music, you will sing and possibly 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.

What will you do:

- about many types of music
- how to read and write music
- how to sing songs and maybe how to
- play an instrument.

Examination:

CBA 1 (2nd Year) Composition Portfolio

CBA 2 (3rd Year) Programme Note (Leads on to Practical Exam)

SEC Examination: Practical Exam 30% & Written Examination 70%



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

<https://curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-Subjects/Home-Economics/Rationale/>