



Subject Choice for Junior Certificate  
2025/26

**Drumshanbo Vocational  
School**

# Before we start!

- ▶ Please take the time to read the following slides carefully and consider the information shown.
- ▶ I hope that this presentation will facilitate you in helping your son/daughter make the decision on what subjects to choose for the Junior Cycle.
- ▶ Please contact me at [daithihughes@msletb.ie](mailto:daithihughes@msletb.ie) if you have any questions or concerns.

# JUNIOR CYCLE FRAMEWORK



# Purpose of the Junior Cycle

- ▶ Help Students become better learners and develop a love of learning
- ▶ Provide a solid foundation for further study
- ▶ To develop skills for learning and life
- ▶ To support learning through improved reporting to both students and parents



# Junior Cycle is made up of the following:

- Core subjects
- Choice Subjects
- Short Courses
- Well Being
- Other Areas Of Learning



# Junior Certificate Core Subjects

- ▶ Irish\*
- ▶ English
- ▶ Maths
- ▶ Science
- ▶ History
- ▶ I.T.
- ▶ Well Being (S.P.H.E., C.S.P.E., P.E., R.E., Guidance)

\* Exemption may apply



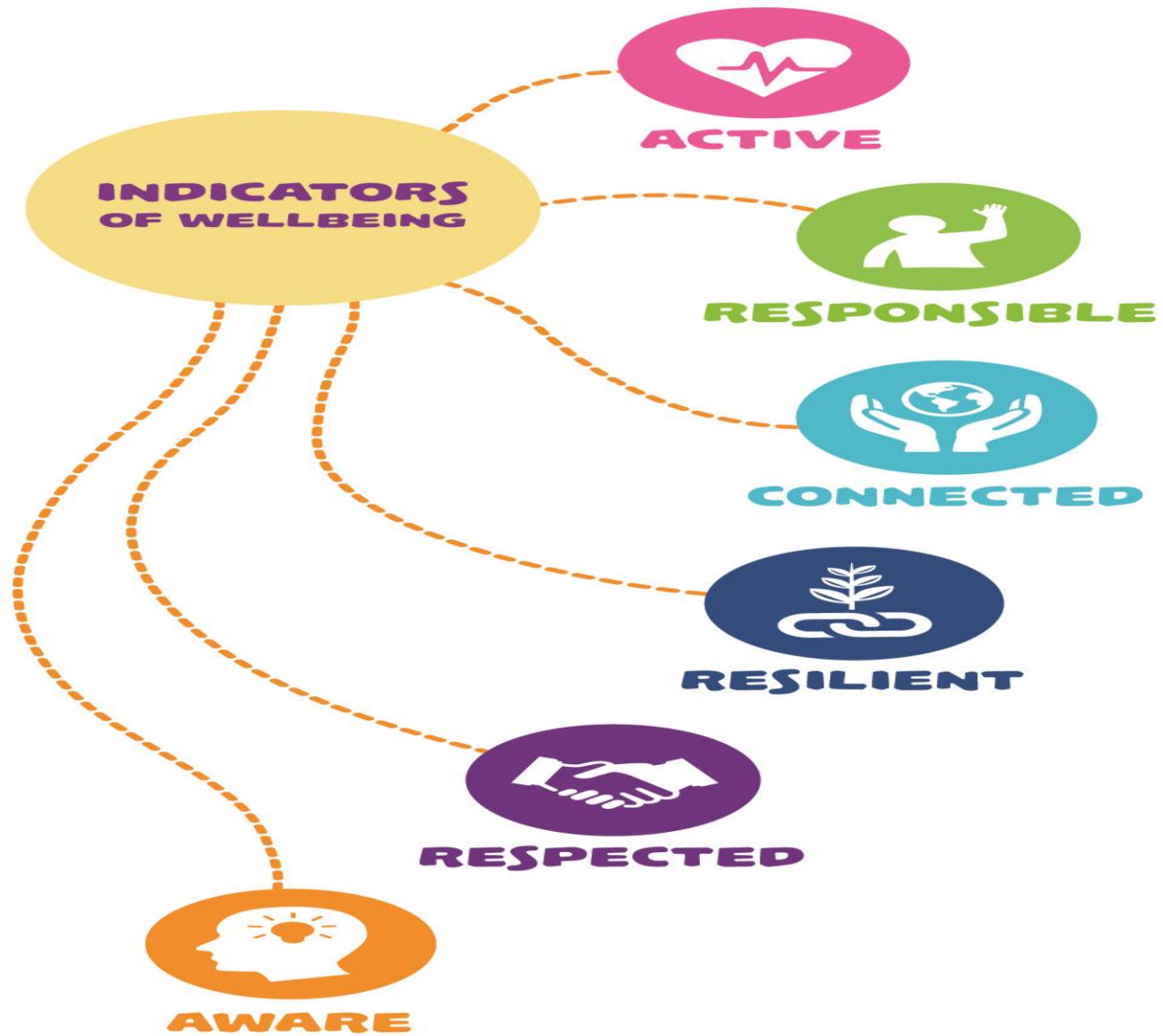
# Optional Subjects

All subjects have a Final Exam plus a Classroom Based Assessment to complete (CBA)

▶ Art	Projects
▶ Business Studies	Exam only
▶ French	Oral/Aural
▶ Home Economics	Project/Practical
▶ Engineering	Project
▶ Wood Technology	Project
▶ Music	Practical
▶ Spanish	Oral/Aural
▶ Graphics	Project
▶ Geography	Exam and Task

# WELLBEING

- The four main pillars of the Junior Cycle Wellbeing programme are
  - ▶ Physical Education (PE)
  - ▶ Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE)
  - ▶ Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE)
  - ▶ Guidance Education.
- Other subjects, short courses and units of learning can also contribute to our School's Wellbeing Programme.
- Schools have the flexibility to develop their own Wellbeing programme based on the needs of the students.



# Other Areas Of Learning

- ▶ Students record other learning experiences.
- ▶ Examples include involvement in school activities such as Young Enterprise and Science fairs
- ▶ School tours and field trips
- ▶ Musicals and other productions
- ▶ Membership of Student Mentoring Teams, Student Council, Gaisce
- ▶ Extra-curricular, sports etc.

# Short Courses

Schools are also permitted to offer short courses which are being updated regularly.



# Grading and Assessment

## ► SEC (Exam)

- Distinction 90-100%
- Higher Merit 75-89%
- Merit 55-74%
- Achieved 40-54%
- Partially Achieved 20-39%
- Not Graded 0-19%

## ► CBA

- Exceptional
- Above Expectations
- In line with Expectations
- Yet to meet Expectations

# Subject Choice Process Begins April

- Information Evening For Parents
- Meetings with Guidance Counsellor
- Subject Teachers Provide Overview of Subject
- Students research subjects using [curriculumonline.ie](http://curriculumonline.ie) & [careersportal.ie](http://careersportal.ie)
- Subject Preferences entered using [vsware.ie](http://vsware.ie)
- Follow up meetings with Guidance Counsellor

# Factors To Consider When Formulating Preferences:

- ▶ Preferences of the Student- Interest & Ability

Are you passionate and interested in the subject? How were your grades?

- ▶ Views of the Parents, siblings & friends

Ask their opinions and their experience about subjects and careers.

- ▶ Implications for Future Choices, i.e. Leaving Certificate

Some subjects if not taken for the Junior Cycle may prove difficult to take for the Leaving Cert., while others can be taken with no previous knowledge.

- ▶ Ideally allow for a Broad Range of Subjects, particularly if no clear idea of future career path

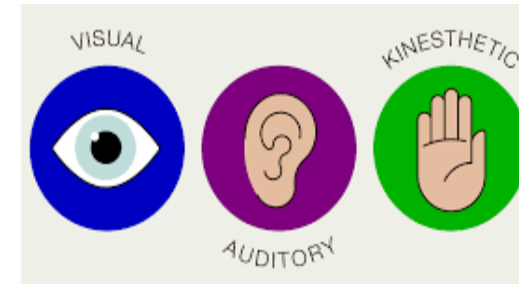
Example: Language, Science Subject, Practical Subject ,Theory Based Subject

# How Parents can help

- Encourage thought, provide support, try not to get too stressed about it.

- Ask questions about how they like to learn new things?

- Be aware of all reasons for choosing a subject.



\*Sometimes a student may choose a subject based on what their friends are doing.

\*Sometimes a student may choose a subject based on the teacher they have.

- Check though their work, grades and try to ascertain how much effort has been put in.

Now we will look at each of the choice subjects briefly

At the bottom of each subject slide is a link which can be copied and pasted into your search engine.

The link takes you to [curriculumonline.ie](http://curriculumonline.ie) where you can read more about the subject

# Visual Art



- ▶ Aim: “to increase the awareness of pupils’ awareness of the visual world in which they live”.
- ▶ 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 Artefacts + 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



- ▶ The subject is concerned with understanding the environment in which business operates including households.
- ▶ 4 main sections:
  - ▶ 1) The business of living 2) Economic awareness
  - ▶ 3) Enterprise 4) Information Technology
- ▶ Examination : CBA 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> Year) Business in Action
  - CBA 2 (3<sup>rd</sup> Year) Presentation
  - SEC Examination: 90% Written Test (1 Common Paper)
  - 10% Assessment Task
- ▶ Careers / Courses : Accounting, Banking, Bookkeeping, Administration, Insurance, Sales, Marketing, Merchandising, Customs and Excise, Taxation and Law

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

# Modern Languages- French/Spanish

- ▶ Highly recommended that a foreign language is kept on for Junior Cert. Choice between French or Spanish.
- ▶ For 4 of the 7 universities you must have a foreign language (exceptions: Science, Nursing and Engineering).
- ▶ 4 key skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking.
- ▶ Examination :

CBA1 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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.



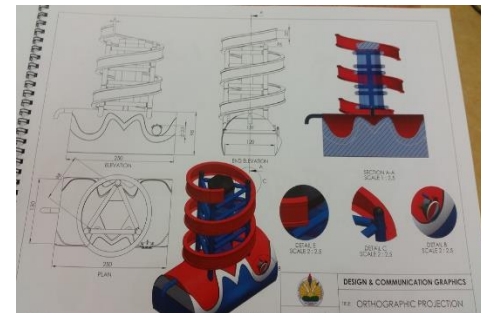
# Engineering (Metalwork)



- ▶ 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Year) Engineering in Action
  - CBA 2 (3<sup>rd</sup> Year) Research and 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/>

# Graphics (Technical 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/>

# Wood Technology (Woodwork)



- ▶ In Wood Technology 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Year) Wood Science in our Environment  
CBA 2 (3<sup>rd</sup> Year) Student Self Analysis and Evaluation  
SEC Examination : Project 70% Written Exam 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 focuses on developing students' knowledge and skills to explore and understand the world around us, our role within it and recognise the interconnections amongst systems.

There are 3 Interconnected Strands:

1. Exploring the Physical World
2. Exploring how we interact with the Physical World
3. Exploring People, Place and Change

There are 3 key Elements to the Curriculum :1. Processes, Patterns, Systems and Scale 2. Geographical skills 3. Sustainability

Assessment: CBA in 2nd Year and 3rd Year with a Written Task in 3rd Year Examination 90%

Careers: Town Planning, Environmental Science, Eco Tourism, Sustainability, Geology, Archaeology and Outdoor Leisure Sports and Recreation.

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



# Home Economics

- ▶ Home Economics aims to equip young people in certain important skills for living as individuals and of establishing and developing a stable environment for their families.
- ▶ 3 Common Areas:
  1. Food Studies, Health and Culinary skills
  2. Responsible Family Living
  3. Textiles and Craft Skills
- ▶ Examination : CBA 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> Year) Creative Textiles  
CBA 2 (3<sup>rd</sup> Year) Food Literacy Skills Brief
- ▶ 50% Practical Project Work 50% Written Exam.
- ▶ Careers/Courses: Chef/Cook, Catering, Fashion and Textiles, Social Care, Tourism, Health and Nutrition.

<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 learn:

Learn 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Year) Composition Portfolio

CBA 2 (3<sup>rd</sup> Year) Programme Note

Practical Exam 30% Written Exam 70%

**Note: Students can no longer study Music outside of school due to Assessment Requirements**

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

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

# Some Specific Course Requirements at Third Level

- ▶ Primary Teaching: H4 in Irish.
- ▶ Commerce: Accounting (NUIG): H4 in Accounting.
- ▶ Home Economics (2nd level teaching): O6 in Home Ec.
- ▶ Business Studies: O4 or H7 in Maths (no Business subject required).
- ▶ Engineering: H5 in Maths for some courses. L8 - HL , L7/6 - OL
- ▶ Human Nutrition and Dietetics (DIT): H4 in Chemistry.
- ▶ Physio: (UL): O3/H7 in one of Physics/Chemistry/Biology/Ag. Science.
- ▶ Physio (TCD): 2 H4 from Physics/Chemistry/Biology/Ag. Science/Maths.
- ▶ Physio (RCSI): H7 in one of Physics/Chemistry/Biology/Ag. Science.

- Pharmacy (UCC): H4 in Chemistry & in either Physics or Biology.
- General Nursing: O6 in one of Physics/Chemistry/Biology/Ag. Science/P/C.
- Veterinary Medicine: H5 in Chemistry .
- \* Medicine (RCSI): O6 in one of Physics/Chemistry/Biology/Ag. Science (UCC): 2 Sciences (Chem +) (Others): 6 yrs (O6 in Sc. Subj.) / 5 yrs (2 Sc. Subj.)
- Science: O6 in one of Physics/Chemistry/Biology/Ag. Science. 2 Sciences desirable? H5 in Maths (UL) H7 or O3 in Maths (UCD).
- Cadetships in the Defence Forces: Minimum: 3H5 & 3O6. Passes in Maths, Continental Language and English or Irish

Mark the subjects in order of preference, 1-9  
1 will be your top choice and 9 will be your last and least  
favourite subject.  
Enter top 5 on [vsware.ie](http://vsware.ie)

Subject	Rank
French	1
Business Studies	2
Wood Technology	3
Home Economics	4
Geography	5
Engineering	6
Music	7
Visual Art	8
Graphics	9

# Let's Recap!

## Do

- Choose subjects you enjoy.
- Choose subjects you are good at.
- Choose subjects you need for any career you are thinking about.
- Keep your options open for the future by making a balanced choice now.
- Talk to your Parents/Guardians, Guidance Counsellor and subject teachers.

## Don't

- Choose a subject because your friends are doing it.
- Choose a subject because you like/dislike the teacher.
- Choose a subject because you think it's easy.
- Choose a subject without finding out more about it.
- Make a decision without thinking about it.

# Useful websites:

- ▶ curriculumonline.ie
- ▶ careersportal.ie
- ▶ qualifax.ie
- ▶ examinations.ie
- ▶ jct.ie
- ▶ schooldays.ie



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit  
*State Examinations Commission*



SchoolDays.ie



***While every effort has been made to ensure that  
these slides are factual and correct,  
please check all course and subject information  
mentioned here as it may be subject to change.  
Thank you.***

