

LC SUBJECT OPTIONS 2026



MPETSS VISION FOR SENIOR CYCLE

- Encouraging leadership and independent learning
- Academic excellence
- Ethical development and wellbeing of students
- Providing opportunities for students to develop skills as active citizens
- Offering subject choices which allow students to pursue further education and career choices

AGENDA FOR PRESENTATION

- Career Guidance aspect of subject choice
- Importance of choosing subjects wisely
- Guide to choosing subjects
- Third level requirements
- LCA information
- How to choose on TYRO



STUDENT WORK COMPLETED SO FAR

- Multiple Intelligence testing
- Personality testing
- Colour blind testing
- Career Sector testing
- Aptitude testing (results on myfuturechoice.com)
- Career Interest testing (Eirquest results on myfuturechoice.com)
- LC subject information app
- LCA presentation
- Course finder tool
- CAO entry requirements
- LC subject presentations from teachers

STRUCTURE OF THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE IN MPETSS

- Complete 7 subjects for the traditional Leaving Cert
- English, Irish* (unless exempt), Maths are compulsory subjects
- Choose four option subjects
- PE, SPHE and Ethical Education are compulsory non-exam subjects.

SUBJECT CHOICE – CHOOSE WISELY

- The Leaving Certificate is more enjoyable when you are interested and suited to the subjects you have picked.
-
- **You do not need to know what career you are going to pursue in the future** but some third level courses have specific subject requirements. This is easily researched.
 - Lots of courses have no specific subject requirements.
- 

GUIDELINES FOR CHOOSING SUBJECTS

- Every individual student has different strengths, weaknesses, aptitudes, skills, needs and passions.
- There are **three** things to consider when choosing subjects
 - ✓ What do I like?
 - ✓ What am I good at?
 - ✓ What do I need?

WHAT DO I LIKE? - 40%

- Consider interests and dislikes
- What did I like at Junior Cycle? Why?
- TY modules
- Hobbies and interests



WHAT AM I GOOD AT? - 40%

- Strengths, weaknesses, aptitudes, skills
- Junior Cert results
- Eirquest & Aptitude tests: results available in myfuturechoice.com

JUNIOR CYCLE PROFILE OF ACHIEVEMENT		2018	
MARTY BRENNAN		DOB: 01 June 2000	
STATE CERTIFIED FINAL EXAMINATIONS		Classroom-Based Assessments	
Examination number: 000000			
English (C)	Distinction	Oral Communication	Very competent
		Collection of texts	Write with imagination
Irish (C)	A		
Mathematics (C)	B		
History (B)	C		
Geography (B)	D		
French (C)	B		
Religion (B)	B		
Science (B)	C		
Business Studies (B)	C		
Technology (B)	A		
		Other Areas of Learning	
			• Marty participated in Biffen her project entitled the 'Biffen' and as an entrepreneur of tomorrow. She planned, researched, organised and evaluated the situation. • Marty was a member of the school basketball team where she contributed to the team's success and participated in various competitions and developed her technical competences and skills. • Marty worked effectively with others in a group where project to raise awareness of the importance of the school and to promote the school of the future. • Marty took part in the 'Biffen' project where she contributed to the school by the creative use of digital technology and was responsible for collecting the evidence from her class.
Principal	Yearhead	Full No. (2018)	
Ms. O'Donnell	Ms. Martin	Scott-Chryser PL, Bunn, Pinnell, Pottasch	
This JCFA recognises and records achievements in Junior Cycle			



WHAT DO I NEED? - 20%

- There are some consequences to choosing certain subjects but not as many as you might think!!!
- So ...



CAO ENTRY – THREE IMPORTANT POINTS

1. Minimum Entry Requirements

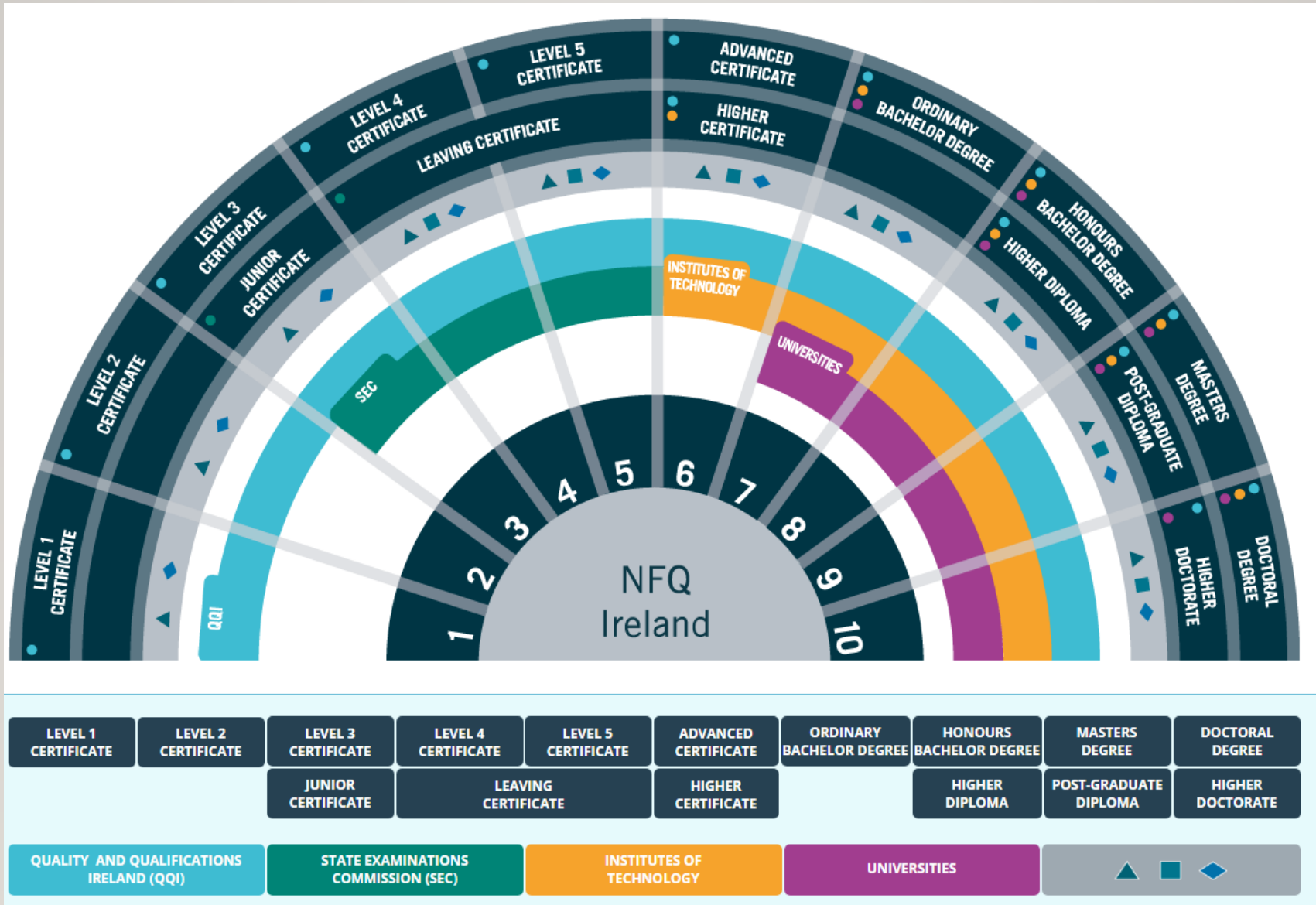
2. Specific Subject / Grade
Requirements

3. CAO Points System

I. MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR L8 DEGREE

- Minimum of 2 x H5 (Higher Level) grades and 4 x O6/H7 (Ordinary/Higher Level) grades
- Trinity College: 3 x H5 and 3 x O6/H7

Higher Level Grades	Higher Level Points	% Bands	Ordinary Level Grades	Ordinary Level Points
H1	100	90-100%	O1	56
H2	88	80-89%	O2	46
H3	77	70-79%	O3	37
H4	66	60-69%	O4	28
H5	56	50-59%	O5	20
H6	46	40-49%	O6	12
H7	37	30-39%	O7	0
H8	0	0-29%	O8	0



2. SPECIFIC SUBJECT / GRADE REQUIREMENTS (SAMPLE)

Course/College	Subject & Grade
Medicine	Two Science subjects
Primary School Teaching	H4 Irish
Journalism, TU Dublin	H4 English/Irish
Languages (unless beginners)	Usually a H4 or above
Computer Science, TCD	H4 Maths
Actuarial and Financial Studies, UCD	H2 Maths

Specific subject requirements **must be checked in the college prospectus/ website as they may change from year to year.**

DO I NEED A MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE?

FRENCH OR SPANISH

- Students can choose a modern foreign language at senior cycle.
- We offer French or Spanish at MPETSS
- Grade H4 is required to study languages at third level
- While it is not compulsory to study a MFL to enter third level, it may restrict your options if you don't.
- Industry and employers rate language skills highly, especially if combined with computing, science or business.

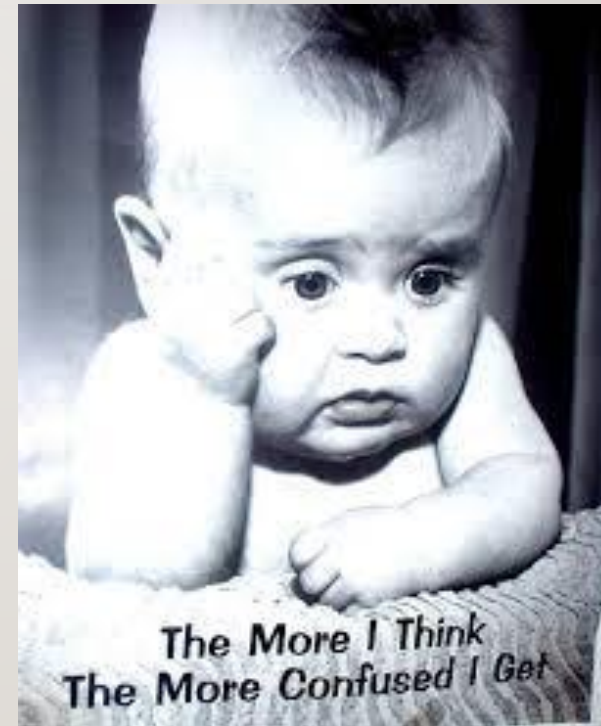
COLLEGES THAT DO REQUIRE A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

- NUI universities - UCD, UCC, University of Galway & Maynooth University.
- Royal College of Surgeons
- St Angela's College in Sligo (Home Economics training)



WITH THE EXCEPTION OF

- UCD: No longer required for Agriculture, Engineering, Science and Nursing
- UCC & MU: Engineering and Science Courses
- MU no longer requires a third language for Business, Accounting, Finance and Law degree programmes.



COLLEGES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

- Trinity College Dublin
- DCU
- UL
- TU Dublin and other Technological Universities
- All IT 's (Institutes of Technology)
- All PLC's (Post Leaving Cert Colleges)
- Teacher training colleges

3. CAO POINTS SYSTEM

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Foundation Level Mathematics

Foundation Level Grade	Points
F1	20
F2	12

25 Bonus Points for HL Maths (H6 and above)

THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH

- Please ensure that you check the specific requirements of a course you might like to study
- www.qualifax.ie - useful tool showing subject requirements for 3rd level
- https://careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer.php
- <https://careersportal.ie/parents/index.php>
- https://careersportal.ie/courses/coursefinder?default=I&txt=&cols_in=
- <https://www.curriculumonline.ie/Senior-Cycle/>
- Individual college websites

OTHER OPTIONS AFTER LEAVING CERT

- Post Leaving Cert course in Colleges of Further Education = Level 5 cert
- National Tertiary Office <https://nto.heai.ie/>
- 80+ Apprenticeships leading to employment <https://apprenticeship.ie/>
- FET training courses e.g. Baldoyle FET
- Defence Forces, Gardaí, Public Jobs
- <https://teagasc.ie/> (agricareers and horticulture)
- Study overseas www.eunivas.ie

ATTENDANCE

- TUSLA EWS identifies chronic absenteeism as 16 days in a school year
- Legislation refers to 20 days absence
- ESRI report Feb 2026 called *The long-term outcomes of school absence*:
 - School absence leads to lower educational qualifications and poorer wellbeing in early adulthood.
 - Chronic absenteeism was predictive of depressive symptoms, higher stress levels, poorer physical health and lower life satisfaction
 - If a child misses 20 days or more of school every year this can lead to a performance gap of over 80 Leaving Certificate points.

SUMMARY

- Important to make an informed decision....research subjects and potential career areas.
- Consult with parents, older friends/relations/neighbours, subject teachers, Guidance Counsellor.
- Read through subject textbooks or review exam papers online
- Think about “What do I like”, “What am I good at” and "What do I need”.
- Consider future 3rd level options.
- Encourage your young person to pick the most suitable subjects for themselves.
- The key to success = Hard Work!
- I am available for further consultation: crose@mpetss.ie

ALTERNATIVE 5TH YEAR CURRICULUM

- LI/L2 Program – New Senior Cycle Programme
- Students will undertake core subjects as well as electives in PE, cooking, drama, art, music and my local environment.
- Tailored to student's interests and staff resources

ALTERNATIVE 5TH YEAR CURRICULUM

Curriculum area	Number of Modules	Recommended hours per module	Recommended hours over two years
Numeracy	4	40	160
Communication and Literacy	3	60	180
Personal care	3	60	180
Electives	5	60	300

LEAVING CERT APPLIED IN MPETSS



LCA

Leaving Certificate Applied
Ardteistiméireacht Fheidhmeach

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LCA AND LCE

LEAVING CERT APPLIED

- Leaving Cert Applied (LCA) is split into four half-year sessions, with more emphasis on continuous assessment instead of end of year exams.
- Cannot *directly* progress into level 7/8 courses, must complete PLC first.

LEAVING CERT ESTABLISHED

- Leaving Cert Established focuses on the final exams taken at the end of two years (5th and 6th year).
- Can progress straight to level 7/8 courses.

WHY LCA MIGHT SUIT YOU AS A LEARNER.

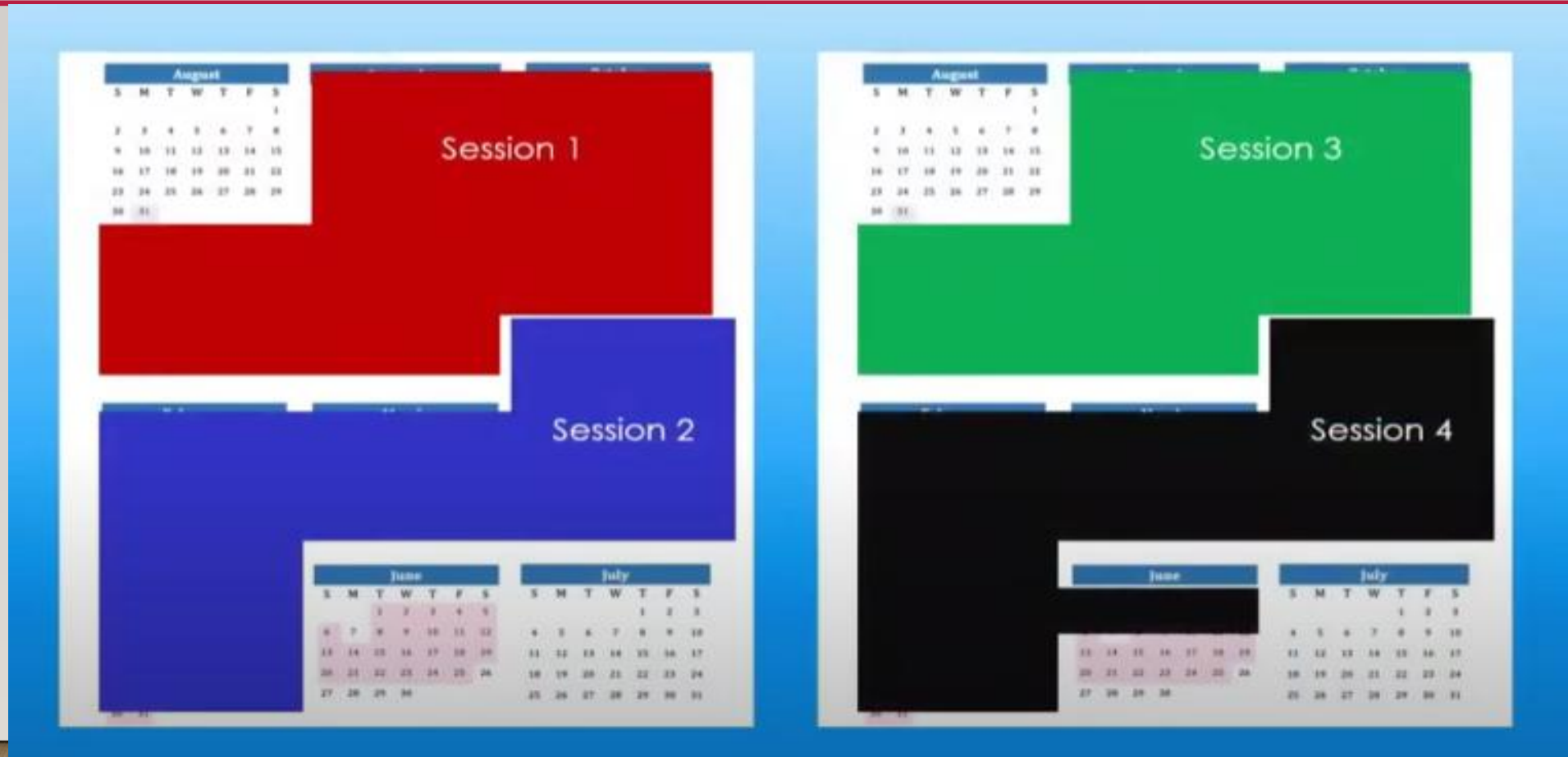
- The programme sets out to recognise the talents of all students and to provide opportunities for developing personal responsibility, self-esteem and self-knowledge, and helps students apply what they learn to the real world;
- Promotes communication and decision making skills.
- Applies knowledge and skills to problem solving.
- No big decision making exams at the end of two years-which is a model that can be very stressful for some.
- Represents more of a real world learning reality.
- Credits awarded for positive attendance.



LEAVING CERT APPLIED

- The Leaving Certificate Applied programme is a two-year Leaving Certificate programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life.
- The two-year programme consists of four half-year blocks called **sessions**. Achievement is credited in each session.
- Courses are offered in three main areas: Vocational Preparation; General Education; and Vocational Education.

SESSIONS



LCA COURSES & SUBJECTS

VOCATIONAL PREPARATION

- Vocational preparation involves:
- Vocational Prep & Guidance
- English & Communications
- Work experience
- Applying maths in everyday life
- IT and computers
- Communication

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

- English
- Maths
- Vocational specialisms
- Introduction to ICT

GENERAL EDUCATION

- General education involves:
- Arts education
- Social education
- Languages x2
- Leisure & Recreation

SPECIALISMS & ELECTIVES CURRENTLY ON OFFER IN MPETSS

SPECIALISMS

- Hotel & Catering
- Office Admin & Customer Care

ELECTIVES

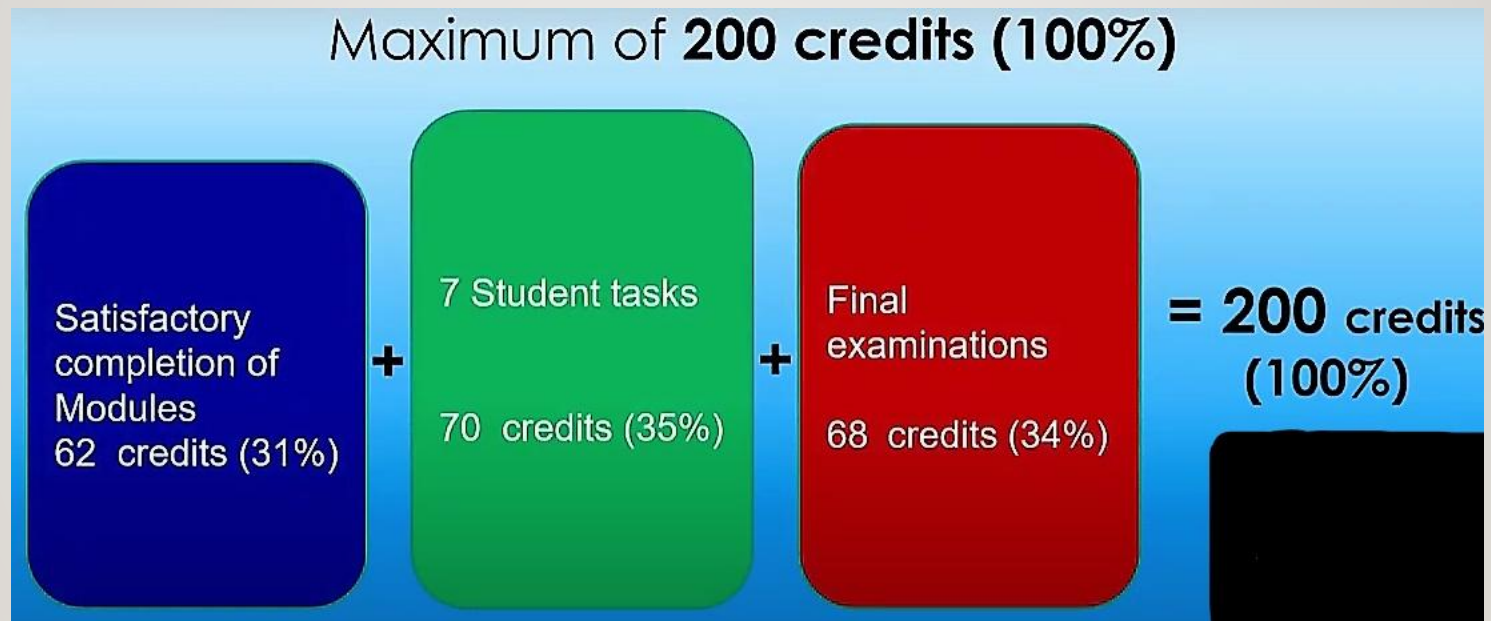
- Music
- Visual Art
- Childcare & community care

Other Specialisms & Electives that could be offered in the future (Teacher Dependent)

- ▶ Agriculture/Horticulture
- ▶ Craft & Design
- ▶ Graphics & Construction
- ▶ Drama



2 YEARS-MAXIMUM OF 200 CREDITS



ASSESSMENT

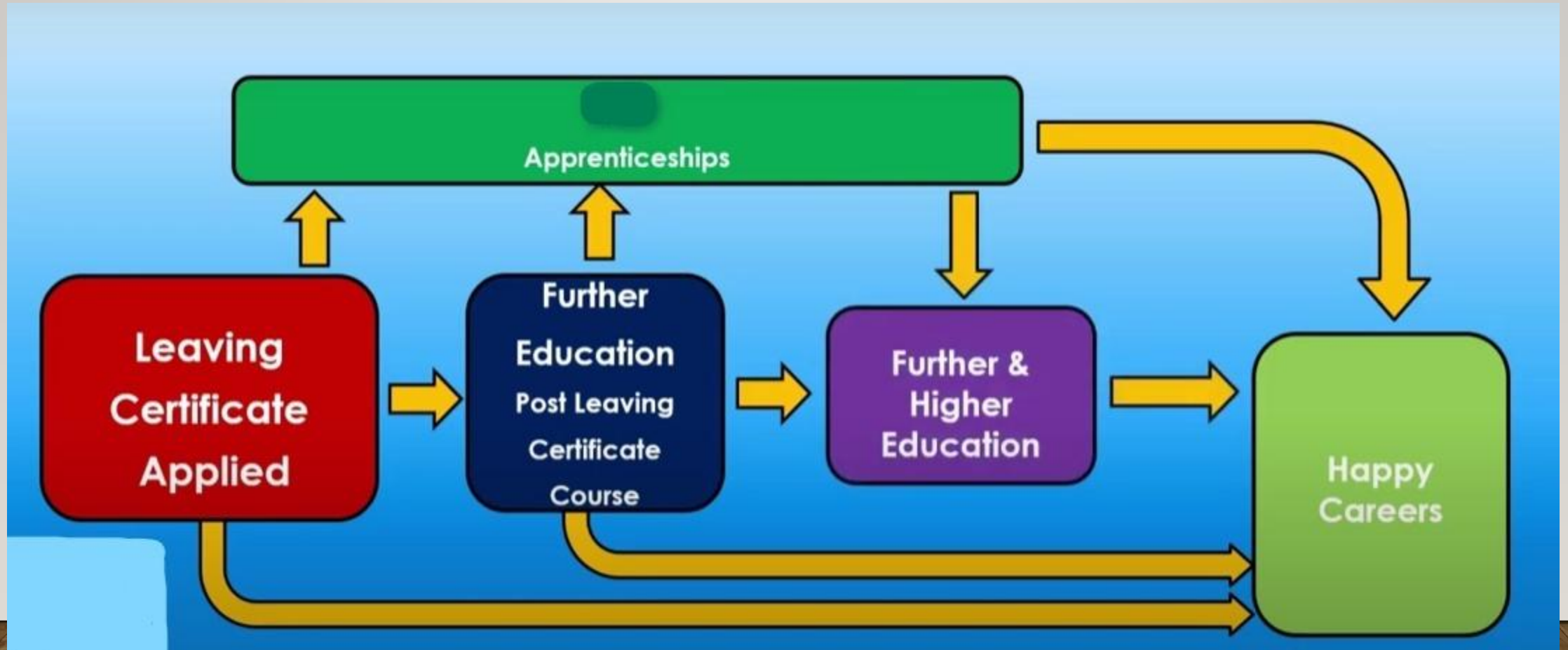
- Continuous assessment - key assignments & attendance
- Final exams:
- English and Communication
- Two vocational specialisms
- Mathematical Applications
- Languages x2
- Students who successfully complete the programme are awarded a Leaving Certificate from the Department of Education and Science.
- The certificate is awarded at three levels: Pass; Merit; and Distinction.



WORK EXPERIENCE

- LCA students will complete four blocks of work experience placements
- One block per session
- One day a week (Wednesday)
- Choose a placement that **interests** you
- Opportunity to try four different types of work over the two years

PROGRESSION AFTER LCA?



OPTION SUBJECTS POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE AT MPETSS:

STUDENTS WILL RANK IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE ON VSWARE. ALL DEPENDENT ON ALLOCATION FROM DES:

- Chemistry
- Biology
- Business
- Applied Technology
- Design, Communication Graphics
- PE
- Physics
- Classics
- Art
- Music
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics (Social & Scientific)
- Politics & Society
- Spanish
- French

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- **Monday 23rd March**
 - TYRO portal will open on Thursday 2nd April to indicate preferences for LCE
 - If interested in LCA, parents can email office@mpetss.ie
 - Students will complete an in-house survey to express their interest in LCA or LCE
- **Wednesday 15th April:**
 - TYRO portal will close at 5pm