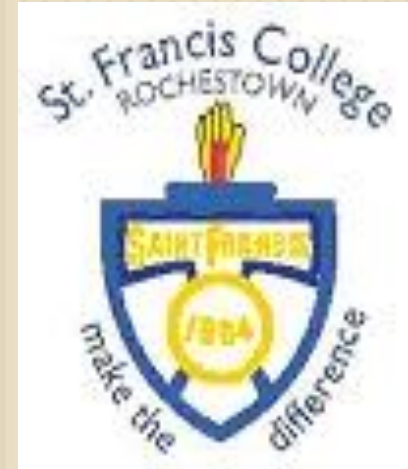


SUBJECT CHOICE SENIOR CYCLE 2015

GERALDINE MULVEY
GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR



Things to take into consideration

- Your son
- Hobbies and interests
- Future plans – career ideas
- Essential subjects for their chosen career
- Helpful subjects for their chosen career
- Previous results – which subjects tend to bring good results
- Favourite subjects
- What do you know about the subject at Leaving Cert level
- Where do you get the information check with the Subject Choice www.qualifax.ie www.careersportal.ie

Where to get information on the subjects

- Talk to students who are doing the subject
- Talk to the teachers of the subject
- Look at the books on the subject
- Look at the past exam papers on the subject
- People working in the career field that your son is interested in.
e.g. Accountant/Doctor/Solicitor etc
- Check Educational Websites: www.careersportal.ie

3rd Level Course Requirements

- Three conditions to fulfil.
 - ▣ Minimum entry requirements.
 - ▣ Subject requirements
 - ▣ Points.

- Universities - 2HC3 and 4OD3

- ITs- 5OD3

Irish Leaving Certificate Calculation Points Grid

Leaving Cert Grade	Higher Paper	Lower Paper	Bonus *	Maths Foundation #
A1	100	60	40	20
A2	90	50	35	15
B1	85	45	30	10
B2	80	40	25	5
B3	75	35	20	
C1	70	30	15	
C2	65	25	10	
C3	60	20	5	
D1	55	15		
D2	50	10		
D3	45	5		

SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- UCC- MEDICINE HC3 CHEMISTRY plus Physics or Biology
- UCC- DENTISTRY HC3 CHEMISTRY Plus Physics or Biology
- UCC –PHARMACY HC3 CHEMISTRY plus Physics or Biology
- UCD –VETERINARY HC3 CHEMISTRY

ONE SCIENCE IS REQUIRED FOR THE FOLLOWING COURSES.

- NURSING – OD3 IN ONE SCIENCE SUBJECT
- UCC -SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY ONE SCIENCE HC3
- UCC - OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ONE SCIENCE HC3
- UL – PHYSIOTHERAPY OB3/HD3 IN ONE SCIENCE
- All level 8 Engineering courses

SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Since 2009 the following courses do not need a third language (e.g. French, German, Spanish etc)

- All Science & Engineering courses in UCC, CIT and all NUI Colleges
- Nursing

However many courses in NUI's (UCC, UCD, UCG & Maynooth) still require students to have a third language as minimum requirement for entry.

Core subjects

- Every student needs to take:
- Seven Subjects for Leaving Cert
- English
- Irish
- Maths

- Students usually choose Three other subjects
- (French compulsory at St. Francis College)

Core Subjects - IRISH

- Higher Level Irish is essential for entry to primary school teacher-training.
- Ordinary level is required for the majority of NUI courses.
- Irish OR English is accepted for entry to the Institutes of Technology (IT)
- Irish Exemptions carry

Core Subject - ENGLISH

- A good higher-level subject for the average student – provided they are prepared to read extensively. Good written expression is required.
- English is a basic requirement for entry in to the majority of colleges

Core Subjects - MATHS

- If you are capable of studying this subject at higher level, there are tremendous career opportunities
- Higher Level Maths (C3) is a requirement for Level 8 Engineering Degree Courses and Mathematical Science in CIT and NUI's
- Since 2012: BONUS points (25 pts for achieving D3 in HL maths) where students have an honour in higher level maths – now awarded in all the NUI's, UL, DIT plus WIT

Subjects Choice St Francis College

- Biology
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Geography
- History
- Music
- French (compulsory to take at St Francis College)
- Design and Communication Graphics (Art)
- Business
- Economics
- Accounting



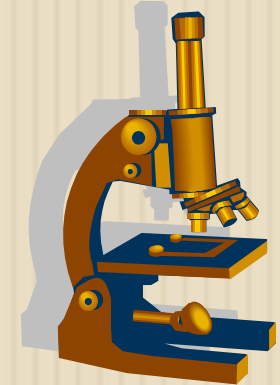
SUBJECT CHANGES from Junior Cert to Leaving Cert

- Science becomes more specific study, you can choose:
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Physics

Science

A science subject is essential for careers in

- Medicine/Dentistry/Veterinary
- Physiotherapy
- Radiography
- Human nutrition
- Pharmacy
- Nursing.
- Engineering
- Most faculties of science require one to have a laboratory science subject.



Physics

- Physics has a strong Math's element
- Requires good knowledge of the various formulas.
- Develops students' understanding of many of the ordinary things that surround us such as heat, light, electricity and magnetism
- Laboratory work is fundamental

Chemistry

- Chemistry deals with the composition of matter, the laws of chemical change and the relationships between properties and the composition of substances
- Higher level chemistry is a requirement for :
 - Medicine
 - Veterinary medicine
 - Dentistry
 - Pharmacy
 - Human nutrition and dietetics

Biology

Biology is often perceived as an easier subject than physics and chemistry, but this is not so, as shown by the high failure rates at ordinary level.

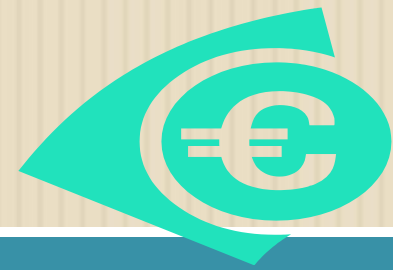
Higher level biology is a requirement for:

- Genetics at UCC
- Human health and disease in Trinity
- Nursing
- Other science based courses

Business Subjects

- Not needed for entry to any Third Level course in the Republic of Ireland
- Highly recommended that your son choose a business subject if he has any interest in studying a business course at 3rd level
- By studying one or more of these subjects the student will be able to make an informed decision in 6th Year about whether or not a Business Course is for them

1. Business



- Very interesting subject
- Requires constant attention to the business pages of the quality newspapers.
- Subject looks at how organisations are formed, financed and run.
- Explores the services that support businesses such as insurance, banking, transport, marketing and public service bodies such as the IDA, Fáilte Ireland etc.

2. Economics

- **Micro-economics** is the study of the economic behaviour of the individual firm and consumer
- Mathematical tools are used in this part of the course, such as graphs and formulae
- **Macro-economics** is the study of the main economic indicators of the economy, employment, inflation, banking, trade, growth and development
- Students are encouraged to take an interest in current economic trends

3. Accounting

- Students who enjoy the book-keeping part of Junior Certificate business should consider taking accounting.
- At Leaving Certificate level, analysis and interpretation of accounts is the core activity.
- For those with strong numeracy and reasoning skills this can be a very enjoyable and successful subject.

Language - French

- There is no language requirement for the ITs unless the course there includes the study of a language
- Many other colleges (NUI's) have it as a requirement for specific courses such as Arts, Commerce, Law, Social Science, European Studies, Languages or Marketing, Sports studies and physical Ed, Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, OT, Speech and Language Therapy (HC3), BIS
- No longer required for Engineering, Computer and Science courses in the NUI's

Humanities - History

- What was a political emphasis now includes both social and cultural history in this relatively new curriculum.
- Offers opportunity for wide reading, information gathering, sustained argument, clear essay writing, and research
- Students can now secure up to 20% of the overall marks by pre-submitting a research paper on a selected topic from a range set out by the State Examinations Commission.

History

- Students have to present three essays in their higher Leaving Certificate paper, plus a documents question
- A good subject for those also taking higher-level English
- Useful for the study of Journalism, Public service, Politics, Government, Law.....

Geography

- Popular with students and regarded as one of the “easier” honour
- Students have the opportunity to do a geographic investigation, which is allocated 20% of their overall marks and is submitted by the end of April
- Both science and pharmacy at TCD accept geography as a science subject for entry requirements.

Geography

- Useful for careers in
- Civil engineering
- Town planning
- Architecture
- Geology
- Pilot
- Anthropology
- Quantity Surveying

Art

- Involves many of the areas studied at the Junior Certificate but in greater depth- for example drawing, painting, design and craftwork.
- Complete Art exam in May (62.5% of total marks) = life sketching, design or craftwork, imaginative composition or still life.
- History and Appreciation of Art– Irish and European appreciation (37.5% of total marks, theory exam in June)
- Portfolio – students interested in pursuing Art as a career
- Useful for architecture, graphic design, multi-media, arts-visual, web design, film studies, game development

Music

- The structure of the syllabus has been changed to allow students to specialise in the syllabus activity, which best suits their talents.
- Music comprises of listening, composing, performing, music technology, choose an elective (each module worth 25%)
- All students must have some element of performance – either singing or an instrumental performance
- Good subject to do as a favourite subject to gain points.
- Careers = teaching, performance, film, sound engineering, Communications, media, Public relations, communications

Subject Choices

- Pick ONE subject from each Line
- 1. Physics, Economics, Geography
- 2. Chemistry, Business, Art or Music
- 3. Biology, Accounting, History

Where are the jobs in Ireland?



**Overview of the Irish jobs market
/ thriving sectors in the
future:**

- ICT**
- Pharmaceuticals**
- Food & Drink**

Future Jobs ?

Expert group on future skills needs

Forfas report 2010



Sectoral skills – shortages identified by sector

- ICT
- Green economy
- Bio-pharma / pharmachem sector
- Food and beverage sector
- International financial services
- Medical devices
- Wholesale and retail

Cross sectoral enterprise/generic skill

- Mathematical proficiency, foreign language and foreign market understanding, business acumen and enterprise

Current Occupational skills shortages

- ICT programmers, science professionals, engineering, sales and marketing, transport and supply chain specialists, financial service

Let's look at the industries in Ireland:



- ❑ 8 of the top 10 pharmaceutical companies.
- ❑ 9 out of the top 10 global ICT companies.
- ❑ 5 of the top global software companies.
- ❑ 15 out of the top 25 medical devices companies.
- ❑ More than 50% of the worlds leading financial services

ICT Companies based in Ireland



Who is recruiting UCC Graduates?



Food & Drink Industry-The future is bright



- €24bn turnover
- 600 companies
- 46,000 and 60,000 indirect employees
- Utilises 90% of agricultural output
- Exports €8.9bn to 120 countries
- Largest net exporter of beef, lamb and dairy ingredients in the EU
- 80% of dairy and 90% of beef exported and produces
- 20% of the global supply of infant formula

**So, where will the jobs be
when you graduate in 2015,
and what courses can you
choose in order to bag them?**



(source:Irish Independent Jan 2012)

Technology and Science

Gambling

Accountancy

Lidl/Aldi manager

IFSC back office

Agrifood

Aviation

finance

Fast food

Entrepreneurship

Tomorrow's jobs



“Many of the jobs in 2015 and most of the jobs in 2030 do not currently exist and cannot be foreseen yet.”

*Expert Group on New Skills for New Jobs –
report prepared for the European Commission
(February 2010)*

Things to keep in mind

- **CHOOSE SUBJECTS THAT YOU LIKE!**
 - They will be more motivated to study.
- **FOCUS ON YOUR STRENGTHS.**
- **WHAT JOB/CAREER?**
- **I DON'T KNOW!**
 - Choose a broad range of subjects so that they keep their options open. **BEST ADVICE IS TO CHOOSE ONE SCIENCE SUBJECT, HUMANITY, BUSINESS SUBJECT AND A FOREIGN LANGUAGE.** It is very normal for their age level to not know what **CAREER** they want or to **CHANGE THEIR MINDS VERY REGULARLY!!**
- **Discuss subject choice with subject teachers, parents and Guidance Counsellor**



Decisions Determine Destiny!

- The key to a good decision is being informed!
- There is a huge variety of course and options available to students nowadays. ALL of the information is web based information.
- Key web sites are www.qualifax.ie, www.cao.ie,
- www.careerdirections.ie www.curriculumonline.ie and the appropriate college web sites.
- YOU SON IS MAKING THE FIRST MAJOR DECISION WHICH IMPACTS ON HIS FUTURE, HE NEEDS TO BE SUPPORTED AND ENCOURAGED TO MAKE A GOOD DECISION.
- THERE IS NO PERFECT CHOICE! DON'T BE AFRAID TO EXPLORE THE DECISION WITH HIM AND USE THE INFORMATION AND THE GUIDANCE SERVICE AT ST FRANCIS COLLEGE TO HELP YOU AND YOUR SON
- Refer to the Careers directory entry requirement handout.

