

*St. Brendan's College
Killarney*

Options for Junior Cycle

St. Brendan's College Subject Options

Dear students and parent(s)/guardian(s),

During this term, first year students must decide what subjects they will study for the Junior Certificate programme.

Apart from the core subjects, there are optional subjects from which they can choose from. This booklet should provide some information which may be helpful to students in making these choices.

In assisting students, time is given by subject teachers to discuss the junior cycle programme i.e the educational aims, content, assessment procedures followed by a meeting with the guidance counsellor and parent information evening.

The information in this booklet only applies to subject choice in St. Brendans College, Killarney and refers only to the subjects on offer in this school. While every effort will be made to accommodate students choice of subjects we cannot guarantee any particular combination of subjects. The final choice offered are a reflection of student preferences they are not predetermined.

The subject detail given in the following pages are not intended to be exhaustive and while every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of the information , no responsibility can be taken for any errors or omissions. Students with specific enquires should always check with their Guidance Counsellor.

Karen Rice

Guidance Counsellor

Junior Cycle Subjects

Core Subjects

Exam Subjects

English
Irish
Maths
History
Geography
Science
Business
Religions Education
CSPE

Non Exam Subjects

Physical Education
SPHE

Option Subjects

French
German

Music
Art

Technical Graphics
Materials Technology (Wood)

Considerations in Choosing Subjects

Choosing subjects requires **research, discussion, reflection and decision.**

When choosing subjects, consider the following:

ABILITY/INTEREST:

Ability and interest are very important considerations as you will work harder and achieve more in subjects which you enjoy and are good at.

CAREERS:

Some courses/careers have very specific subject entry requirements while others have very general entry requirements (discussed in more detail later).

RELEVANCE:

Remember, not every subject has to have a specific relevance or use other than your enjoyment of the subject.

KEEPING OPTIONS OPEN:

Keep your range of subjects as broad as possible

SUBJECT CONTENT

Some detail is given in this document but the best person to advise you is your subject teacher. They can provide you with information on the course content over the next two years and guide you on your ability in and potential to do well in the subject.

Language Group



French , German

Educational Aim:

To develop the students knowledge in the language and an interest in German/French Speaking Countries.
Each student will be able to hold a basic conversation using different tenses and grammar structures
To develop the Oral Skills of each student with an eye to leaving cert German/
French Oral

Content:

Buildings and Directions	Jobs at Home/ Occupations
Hobbies/Vocab	Short Notes /Letter Writing
Tenses Present/Perfect/Imperfect/Future	Tape Work
Description of people	Use of Exam/Pre Papers

Junior Cert Examination: French and German are examined at both Ordinary and Higher Level. The modes of assessment include an Aural (40%) & Written (60%)

The Third Language Requirement

A Third Language is required for entry to the National University of Ireland (NUI) colleges – UCC, NUI Maynooth, NUI Galway, UCD and other associated colleges such as the R.C.S.I, Shannon College of Hotel Management, St. Angela’s College of Education, NCAD, Institute of Public Administration, Miltown Institute of Theology & Philosophy. The Cadets in the Defense Force also require a modern European language.

Courses that do not require the Third Language: Engineering & Agricultural courses at UCD; Engineering and Science courses at NUI Maynooth; Engineering and Science Courses in NUI Galway (except GY304); Science, Engineering and Food Science in UCC. University of Limerick (UL): English & another language; Dublin City University (DCU): English or Irish; Trinity College Dublin (TCD) accepts a “language other than English” e.g. Irish.

Students entering NCAD may present the subject Art in place of the Third Language. Institutes of Technology accept English or Irish for entry purposes.

Many colleges have a language requirement for specific courses such as European Studies, Law with a language, Commerce with a language etc.

N.B. Students may be exempt from the Third Language on the grounds of a Specific Learning Difficulty such as dyslexia. However, in order to be granted this exemption for college a student would need to present (i) a School Record Form completed by the Head of the School and (ii) a Certification Form completed by a qualified professional accompanied by a psychological assessment no more than 3 years old. Forms are available from the National University of Ireland, 49 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, or may be downloaded from www.nui.ie/college.

Art & Music

Art:

Educational Aim:

This syllabus aims to develop the expressive, communicative and functional modes of art, craft and design in the student within the art class.

Content:

Drawing is the central activity to the syllabus and links with 2-D (painting and graphic design) and 3-D, Options (craftwork). Drawing is used for thematic ideas, designs and research.

These activities encourage personal exploration and understanding of the different art and design elements.

Assessment:

It is assessed at Ordinary and Higher Level. The quantity and quality of work produced determine the differences between the two levels. The modes of assessment are

A personal thematic project carried out during the examination year.

A drawing examination of an object and a person

Music

Educational Aims:

The Music Syllabus aims to deliver a broad and balanced education by providing students with musical knowledge, understanding and practical competencies appropriate to their age, needs, abilities and interests

Content:

In performing students may choose from a variety of individual and group performing categories. In composing students may select from a range of prescribed exercises, including a higher level option in free composition

Assessment:

Junior Certificate Music is examined at both Ordinary and Higher Level. The modes of assessment include a (i) practical examination in individual and /or group performing 25% and (ii) a combined aural and written examination in composing and listening to music (75%)

Applied Sciences



Materials Technology Wood, Technical Graphics

Materials Technology Wood

Educational Aims:

MTW is concerned with the application of knowledge and materials processing skills in facilitating students' exploration of their role in making and shaping their environment

Content:

Project Design and Realisation	Materials
The Timber Industry	Tools and Turning
Joints, Fasteners and Fixtures	Shaping and Forming
Health and Safety	

Assessment:

MTW is assessed at both Ordinary and Higher Level by means of a terminal examination paper and a student project. 60% Practical and 40% Theory

Technical Graphics

Educational Aim:

Technical Graphics involves students in the development of the range of skills associated with the management of spatial problems and the graphical communication of spatial ideas and solutions.

Content:

<u>Plane Geometry</u>	<u>Descriptive geometry</u>	<u>Communication Graphics</u>
Constructions	Orthographic Projection	Freehand drawing & sketching
Plane Figures	Pictorial drawing and projection	Graphics in designing
Transformation Geometry	Scaled drawing	Computer graphics
Areas and Figures	Surface development	

Assessment :

Technical Graphics is assessed at both Ordinary and Higher Level by means of a terminal examination paper.

Option Form --- Junior Cycle

Students are to choose two subjects in order of preference and a third subject as a reserve. Every effort will be made to ensure students get their preferred choices but this cannot be guaranteed.

The list of subject to choose from are as follows:

Music Art French German
Materials Technology (Wood) Technical Graphics

Subject choice:

1. _____

2. _____

Reserve Subject:

3. _____

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Name of Student (in bold): _____

Class: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent(s) Signature: _____