

Leaving Certificate Applied Programme

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a distinct, self-contained two-year Leaving Certificate programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life.

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. It is a practical programme which recognises that individuals differ considerably in the ways they process, assimilate, recall information, and learn.

A student who has been awarded the Leaving Certificate Applied can go on to choose from a wide range of Post Leaving Certificate courses (PLCs). Dunboyne College of Further Education is a popular choice for many of our LCA students. Many PLC courses lead to either a level 5 or a level 6 FETAC award. Whilst students cannot gain direct entry through the Central Applications Office (CAO), in some cases, they can progress with this award to a third level course in higher education institutions such as, institutes of technology and universities. Students may opt to complete a traineeship or apprenticeship programme or enter the workplace directly.

Courses are offered in three principal areas:

- **Vocational Preparation**
- **Vocational Education**
- **General Education**

Each course is made up of several modules. Each module takes half a year to complete. There is also a wide range of practical courses, called vocational specialisms, from which the student can choose.

(i) Vocational Preparation

Work experience is essential to this element of the programme. Students are prepared for adult and working life through a range of courses and modules including English and Communication, Guidance, Job Search, Work Experience, Enterprise, Community Work, Work and Living.

(ii) Vocational Education

All students take courses in Mathematical Applications and an Introduction to Information and Communication Technology. They also choose two specialist courses from the following career related areas offered in St. Peter's College;

Childcare/Community Care, Graphics and Construction Studies, Engineering, Hair and Beauty and Hotel, Catering and Tourism and Horticulture.

(iii) General Education

Students experience a broader dimension to their education through courses in Arts Education, Gaeilge, Modern Languages, Leisure and Recreation, Social Education.

Assessment

The two-year programme consists of four half-year blocks called *sessions*. Achievement is credited in each session on the completion of modules. Each of the courses are designed on a modular basis. A *module* takes thirty hours to complete. Students must take a total of 44 modules over the two-year programme. Over the two years, students complete several *key assignments*. There are several learning experiences that have been selected from the modules as being of key importance. Key assignments plus 90% attendance are a minimum requirement to obtain credit for the module. There are four key assignments for each module.

Seven *Student Tasks* bring together the different learning experience that the students have gained from the courses.

There is also a final examination in each of the following areas:

- English and Communication
- Two vocational specialisms
- Mathematical Applications
- Language
- Social Education

Credits towards the final award are accumulated throughout the two years of the programme through:

- 1.) Satisfactory completion of modules. (Maximum of 62 credits)
- 2.) Performance of student's tasks. (Maximum of 70 credits)
- 3.) Performance in the final examinations. (Maximum of 68 credits)

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:

Level	Grade	Credits Required
Pass	60-69%	120-139 credits
Merit	70-84%	140-169 credits
Distinction	85-100%	170-200 credits

Candidates who get less than 120 credits or who do not complete the course, are awarded a Record of Experience.

Work Experience

Students have a wonderful opportunity to complete work experience one day a week over the two years. The aim of work experience is to provide students with a deeper understanding of the workplace and practical hands on experience of the working world. It is a wonderful opportunity to try new areas, develop new skills, challenge perceptions and make extremely useful contacts for future endeavours.

www.dunboynefe.ie, www.apprenticeship.ie, www.fetchcourses.ie, #thisisfet