

# **The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme.**

LCVP is a Senior Cycle Programme of the Department of Education and Science (DES), designed to give a strong vocational dimension to the Leaving Certificate (established). The Programme combines the virtues of academic study with a new and dynamic focus on self-directed learning, enterprise, work and the community. Students in Clonkeen College taking the LCVP have the opportunity to develop their interpersonal, vocational and technological skills.

LCVP was introduced into our school for the first time in September 2008 and students presented their work for examination in June 2010. LCVP is an additional certification, awarded with the Leaving Certificate. Students are awarded points, towards college places, for the different levels of attainment reached at examination.

The Programme is of a two-year duration and is available to post junior-certificate students, whose subject choice for the Leaving Cert satisfies a predetermined criterion. Students must have as their subject choice an modern language, a business subject and a vocational subject (eg. French, Business Studies and Art).

LCVP prepares students for work and this is reflected in the three "*link modules*" which students must study, namely: Work Experience, Enterprise Education and The World of Work. A portfolio of course assignments constitute 60% of final result, while the remaining 40% is attainable at a final written examination. As the business and employers federation supports LCVP, it will be of obvious benefit to students when entering the workplace.

## **About the LCVP**

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is an intervention designed to enhance the vocational dimension of the Leaving Certificate (established). The programme was introduced in 1994 in response to the challenge placed on Ireland's education system by a changing work and business environment. The LCVP combines the academic strengths of the Leaving Certificate (established) with a new and dynamic focus on self-directed learning, innovation and enterprise. This two-year programme is

part of an expanded provision that aims to cater for the diversity of participants' needs at senior cycle.

The primary goal of the LCVP is to prepare young people for adult life by ensuring that they are educated in the broadest sense, with an ability to cope and thrive in an environment of rapid change. Participants in the programme are encouraged to develop skills and competencies fundamental to both academic and vocational success.

Throughout the programme students are encouraged to:

- Be innovative and enterprising
- Take responsibility for their own learning
- Adapt to changing circumstances
- Evaluate data and devise solutions to problems
- Communicate their thoughts and ideas effectively
- Work with others as part of a team
- Investigate and plan career options
- Use information and communications technologies
- Investigate local businesses and community enterprises
- Learn from their experiences

These skills and qualities are equally relevant to the needs of those preparing for further education, seeking employment or planning to start their own business.

The strong vocational focus of the LCVP is achieved by arranging Leaving Certificate subjects into Vocational Subject Groupings (VSGs) and through the provision of additional courses of study in work preparation and enterprise known as the **Link Modules**.

### **Programme Requirements**

Programme Requirements for students taking Leaving Certificate Examination:

At least five Leaving Certificate subjects, one of which must be Irish

Two of the subjects must be selected from one of the designated Vocational Subject Groupings

Two Link Modules: Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education

A recognised course in a Modern European Language other than Irish or English

### **Vocational Subject Groupings (VSGs)**

Two subjects are selected from one of the Vocational Subject Groupings. These subjects provide students with a focus for developing vocational skills and exploring their career options.

The Specialist Groupings consist of subjects which complement one another naturally. The Services Groupings comprise subjects which complement one another in a commercial context.

- 1) Construction Studies; Engineering; Technical Drawing -year two; Design and Communication Graphics - year one; Technology (new subject ) - **Any Two**
- 2) Physics **and** Construction Studies **or** Engineering **or** Technology
- 3) Agricultural Science **and** Construction Studies **or** Engineering **or** Technology
- 4) Agricultural Science **and** Chemistry **or** Physics **or** Physics/Chemistry
- 5) Home Economics; Agricultural Science; Biology - **Any Two**
- 6) Home Economics **and** Art - Design Option **or** Craft Option
- 7) Accounting; Business; Economics - **Any two**
- 8) Physics **and** Chemistry
- 9) Biology **and** Chemistry **or** Physics **or** Physics/Chemistry.
- 10) Engineering **or** Technology **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics
- 11) Construction Studies **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics
- 12) Home Economics **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics
- 13) Agricultural Science **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics
- 14) Art Design or Craftwork Option **and** Accounting **or** Business **or** Economics

## **15) Music and Accounting or Business or Economics**

### **The Link Modules**

Students taking the Leaving Certificate Examination from 2004 onwards will follow two Link Modules over the course of the two years.

#### **Link Module I – Preparation for the World of Work**

Students will research and investigate local employment opportunities, develop job seeking skills such as letter writing, CV presentation, interview techniques; gain valuable practical experience of the world of work; interview and work shadow a person in a career area that interests them

#### **Link Module II – Enterprise Education**

Students will be involved in organising visits to local business and community enterprises; meet and interview enterprising people on site and in the classroom; plan and undertake interesting activities that will build self-confidence, creativity, initiative and develop teamwork, communication and computer skills.

### **Typical LCVP Students**

Typically, LCVP students take seven Leaving Certificate Subjects plus the Link Modules

#### **Information and Communications Technology**

Students taking the LCVP will have an opportunity to develop and apply their IT skills. Students should also have an opportunity to use audio-visual equipment and computer presentation packages for recording and presentation purposes. During the course of the programme students will develop skills to:

Enter, edit, store, retrieve and print information

Word process CVs, letters, reports and create illustrated documents

Send and receive e-mail messages

Access and use relevant information from CD Roms and the Internet

### **Teaching and Learning**

The use of active teaching and learning methodologies is encouraged across the LCVP curriculum. Experiences such as work placement, career investigation, mini-enterprise, business and community visits are an integral part of the programme. The Link Modules encourage students to apply the knowledge and skills they have acquired through their Vocational Subjects and in other areas of their Leaving Certificate. Vocational relevance is enhanced by putting in place opportunities for students to plan, organise and engage in active learning experiences inside and outside the classroom.

### **Typical LCVP activities include**

Conducting Investigations – businesses, community enterprises, agencies

Arranging Visits out of school to sites of interest in the context of conducting investigations

Inviting Visitors to the classroom -adults other than teachers as resource visitors

Working in Teams – on projects and investigations

Organising Enterprise Activities – setting up projects as vehicles of learning

Actively preparing for work – career investigation, job search, practice at interviews

Experiencing the world of work, work experience, work simulation, work shadowing

Making presentations to adults and peers

Using Information and Communications Technology – to access, store, communicate and present information

### **Assessment of the Link Modules**

LCVP students follow the same subject syllabi and are assessed in the same way as their peers in the Leaving Certificate. For the Link Modules they are assessed by Written Examination (40%) and by Portfolio of Coursework (60%).

### **The structure of the Written Examination is as follows:**

Section A      Audio-Visual Presentation

Section B Case Study (received in advance by students).

Section C General Questions (4 out of 6).

The Portfolio of Coursework accounts for 60% of total marks. Students assemble the portfolio over the two years of the programme and it is assessed at the end of the final year of the Leaving Certificate.

<b>LINK MODULES - PORTFOLIO OF COURSEWORK</b>
<b>CORE ITEMS</b>
Curriculum Vitae Career Investigation Enterprise/Action Plan Summary Report
<b>OPTIONAL ITEMS (any two)</b>
Diary of Work Experience Enterprise Report Recorded Interview/Presentation Report on My Own Place

**Certification.**

LCVP students receive the same certificate as other Leaving Certificate students but their Certificate includes an additional statement of the results of the Link Modules.

Grades for the Link Modules are as follows:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Distinction	80% – 100%
Merit	65% – 79%
Pass	50% – 64%

The Link Modules are recognised for points purposes by the Institutes of Technology and the Universities. The points are allocated as follows:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Institutes of Technology award</b>	<b>Universities award</b>
Distinction	70 points	70 points
Merit	50 points	50 points
Pass	30 points	50 points