

Background to the LCA

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a distinct, self-contained two year programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life. The programme puts an emphasis on forms of achievement and excellence which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past. It is an innovative programme in the way students learn, in what they learn and in the way their achievements are assessed. The LCA is intended to meet the needs of those students who are not adequately catered for by other Leaving Certificate programmes or who choose not to opt for such programmes.

The advantage of the Leaving Certificate Applied is that it focuses on the talents of each individual student and helps students apply what they learn in the real world. The two year programme consists of four half year blocks called sessions and achievements are credited in each of these sessions.

LCA in Old Bawn Community School

The LCA was introduced to recognise the talents of all students and to provide those not adequately catered for by the traditional Leaving Certificate with opportunities for development in terms of responsibility, self-esteem and self-knowledge. The programme was introduced to Old Bawn Community School in 1997. At present there are two LCA classes – LCA 1 and LCA 2,

LCA Personnel and Classes

LCA Coordinator: Paula Jennings

Class Tutor: Each LCA class is assigned a Class Tutor

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|-------|---------|-------------|
| Maebh | (LCA 1) | Mr Thompson |
| LCA 2 | | Mr Ginty |

Pupil Selection

Students are selected for the LCA based on their suitability for the programme. The selection process involves:

- Liaison with the pupil's parents: An Information Session on the Programme is provided for parents and students at the end of January 3rd Year
- Application form: A written application form must be completed in respect of each student intending to enrol on the LCA programme.
- Interview: All Prospective candidates for the programme are interviewed by the Year Head and the LCA coordinator.
- Academic Review: third and fourth year class tutors, year tutors, SEN coordinator and core subject teachers are consulted to assess the student's performance in the school up to Junior Cycle/Transition Year.
- Behaviour review: the pupil's position on the code of behaviour will be taken into consideration when deciding to offer a place or not. Students who have accumulated a number of yellow cards and / or negative referrals may not be suited to this particular course for senior cycle.

Based on the above, the student's suitability for the programme is assessed and if his/her application is deemed successful, the student will be offered a place on the programme for the following September.

After interview, some students may be given a provisional place in LCA subject to certain criteria being fulfilled before the end of May; these measures will be discussed with the individual student and reviewed consistently.

Each pupil's performance is reviewed following the completion of the first session of the programme.

Curriculum

The subjects offered by OBCS in the LCA programme may be as follows (depending on the schools ability to offer the subjects):

Vocational Preparation and Guidance:

Guidance

Work Experience [4 modules over 2 years]

Jobsearch/Enterprise [Year 1], Community Work [Year 2]

English and Communications

Vocational Education:

Office Administration and Customer Care [Year 1 & 2]

Graphics and Construction Studies [Year 1 & 2]

Mathematical Applications

Introduction to ICT

General Education:

Social Education

Gaeilge [Year 1]

Spanish [Year 2]

Arts Education [Visual Art]

Leisure and Recreation

Electives:

Engineering [Year 2]

Hotel, Catering and Tourism [Year 1]

Other:

Pastoral Care

Personal Reflection Task

Practical Achievement Task [Year 2]

Work Experience

Students complete four modules of work experience spread over four sessions. Two weeks in November and two weeks in March of 5th and 6th year.

Tasks

The seven tasks completed by students are as follows for Year 1 and Year 2 groups:

Vocational Preparation [Enterprise Task]

General Education [Subject area rotates]

Contemporary Issues [Social Education]

Vocational Education [Hotel, Catering and Tourism]

Vocational Education [Office Administration and Customer Care]

Personal Reflection Task

Practical Achievement Task

Assessment

The LCA programme uses a unique system of assessment. The students' work is assessed over two years of the programme and they gain credit as they go along **provided that they have a minimum of 90% attendance**. Practical work, interviews and terminal written papers are among the different forms of assessment used. Additionally, the student must complete seven Students Tasks [as outlined above] that bring together the different learning experiences that the students have gained from the courses they have taken.

As students complete the programme they collect credits – to a possible maximum of 200 (194 if student does not do Gaeilge):

- A maximum of 62 credits [31%] are awarded for completing the required courses
- 10 credits for each of the 7 student tasks completed [70 credits, 35%]
- 68 credits [34%] in total for the terminal examinations at the end of year two [or in the case of some subjects, e.g. Gaeilge, at the end of year one.]

The Leaving Certificate Applied is awarded at three levels:

- Pass [60-69%]
- Merit [70-84%]
- Distinction [85-100%]