

# Subject Choices for Senior Cycle

Information Night for Students and Parents  
Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 2020

Scoil Mhuire  
Guidance and Counselling

# Outline of Evening

- ▶ Introduction: Mrs. Brennan - Deputy for Seniors
- ▶ Subject Choice: Ms. McGee - Guidance Counsellor
- ▶ LCVP: Ms. O Reilly - LCVP co-ordinator
- ▶
- ▶

# Careers



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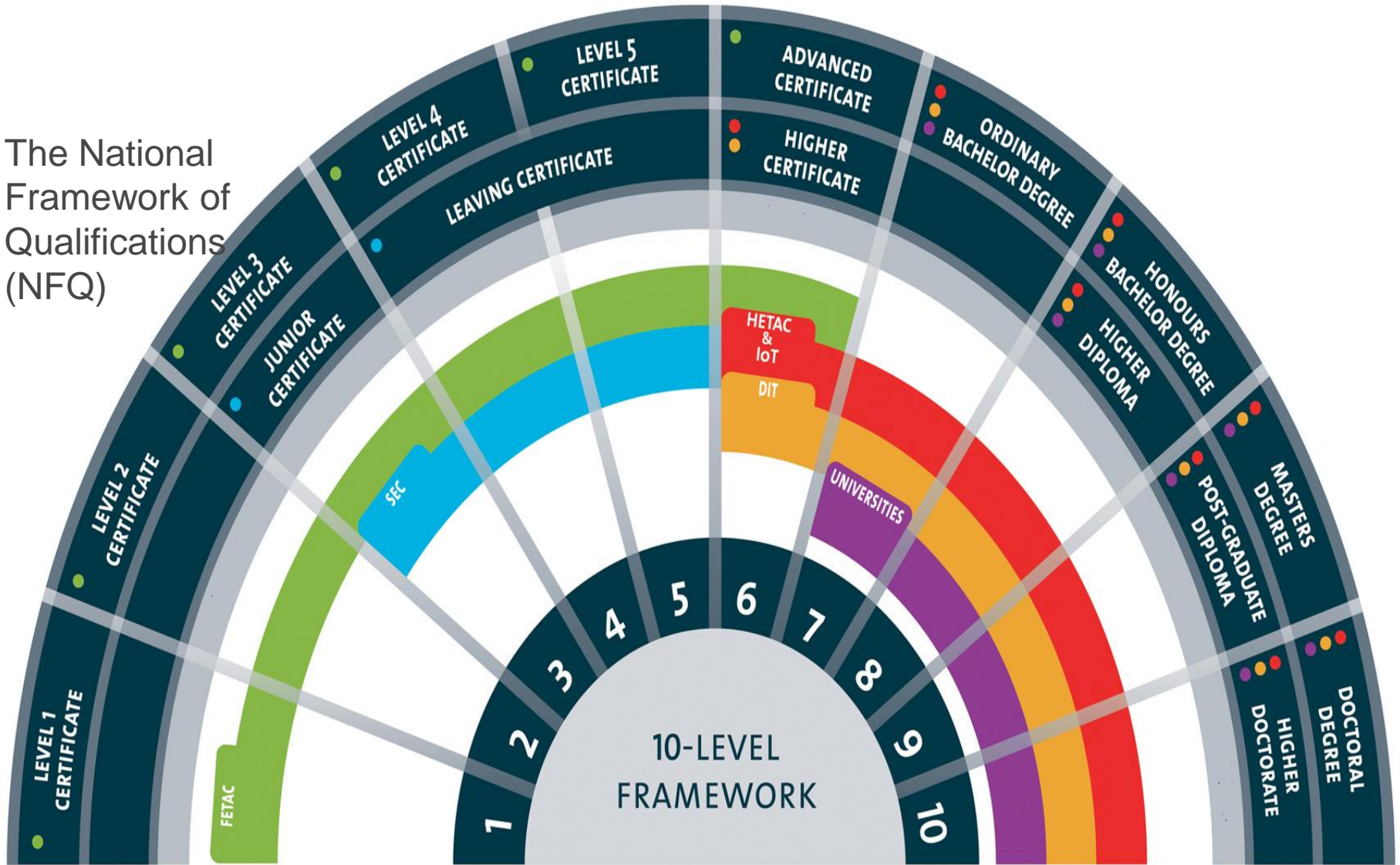


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What might I do  
when I leave school?



# The National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)



# Options after Second Level

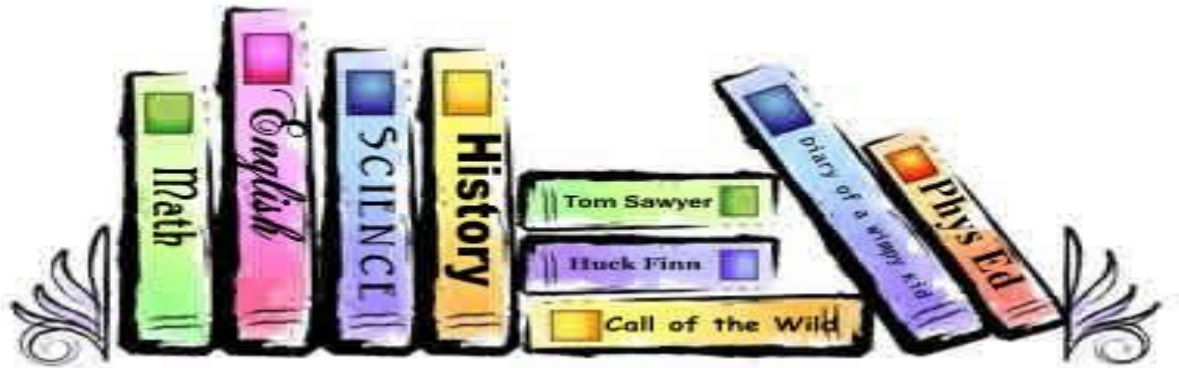
Further Study at:

- ▶ Level 5 - 1 yr PLC course
  - ▶ Level 6 - 2 yr Higher Cert.
  - ▶ Level 7 - 3yr Ordinary Degree
  - ▶ Level 8 - 3/4yr Honours Degree
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- ▶ Training - Apprenticeship - Defence Forces - Gardai - Hair & Beauty etc
  - ▶ Work
  - ▶ Travel/ Volunteering etc.....

# SENIOR CYCLE - How many subjects?

▶ 7 .....to include.....

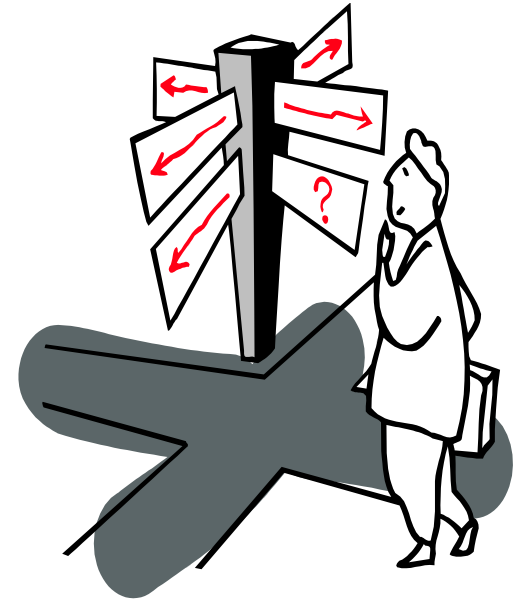
- Irish, English, Maths, French or German
- and  
three others from the list of options.



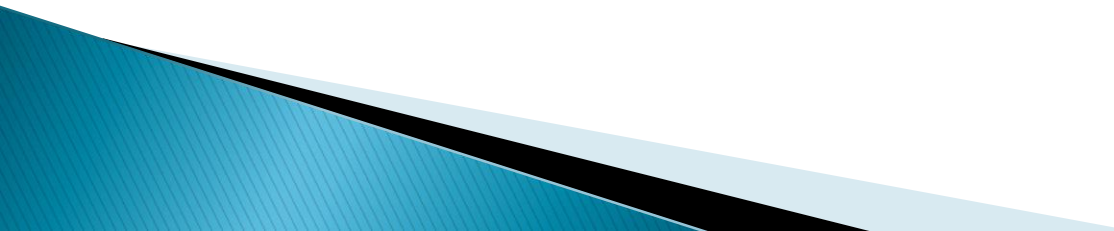


# Questions to Ask

- ▶ What subjects am I most interested in?
- ▶ What subjects am I likely to be good at?
- ▶ What subjects might I need?



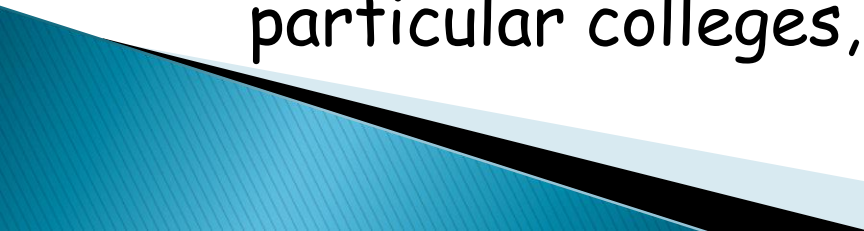
# Choosing subjects:

- ▶ What is the subject content?
  - ▶ Know what is on the curriculum- go on to
  - ▶ [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie) - check content
  - ▶ Read the textbooks, ask teachers/ students for a loan of a text and look at the content -
  - ▶ Ask yourself---Do you like it? Are you interested in it? Would this suit you?
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# Leaving Cert Grades

Higher Level Grades	Higher Level Points	% Bands	Ordinary Level Grades	Ordinary Level Points
H1	100	90-100%	O1	56
H2	88	80-89%	O2	46
H3	77	70-79%	O3	37
H4	66	60-69%	O4	28
H5	56	50-59%	O5	20
H6	46	40-49%	O6	12
H7	37	30-39%	O7	0
H8	0	0-29%	O8	0

# Things to inform yourself about:

- Career Requirements
  - College requirements
  - Course requirements
  - Not just points
  - Certain subjects are essential for entry to particular colleges, courses and careers.
- 

# Career Requirements

- ▶ Some careers also require specific subjects.
- ▶ **EXAMPLE:** Science is essential in order to maximise choice in many careers including:
  - ❖ Medicine
  - ❖ Dentistry
  - ❖ Pharmacy
  - ❖ Nursing
  - ❖ Optometry
  - ❖ Physiotherapy
  - ❖ Sports Science  
etc.....

# Entry Requirements

- ▶ Be aware there are:
  - ▶ 1. College Entry Requirements
  - ▶ And
  - ▶ 2. Course Entry Requirements



# Minimum College Entry Requirements:

## Trinity College :

3H5, 3O6 (including English, Maths and a language)

NUI Colleges (Maynooth, UCD, Galway etc) :

2H5, 4O6 including English, Irish (and a Language for some courses)

**This has nothing to do with points.**

# Specific Course Requirements = Points +

- ▶ Some examples are:
- ▶ Primary Teaching requires from 453 points + H4 in higher Irish.
- ▶ H4 in higher Maths is the minimum requirement for many (not all) Engineering degree courses.
- ▶ UCD requires 567 points + H5 in higher Chemistry + work experience for Veterinary Medicine.
- ▶ Journalism & Multimedia in DCU require a H4 in English

NB - BE AWARE of MATHS REQUIREMENTS

Check all requirements on  
[www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)



# Subject Balance

Be careful of over- specialising e.g.  
be wary of taking all three science subjects.  
You may change your mind.

There are lots of possible combinations....

One Science, one Business, one other  
Two practical subjects and one other  
Two business subjects and one other ...etc.

Think carefully before you choose

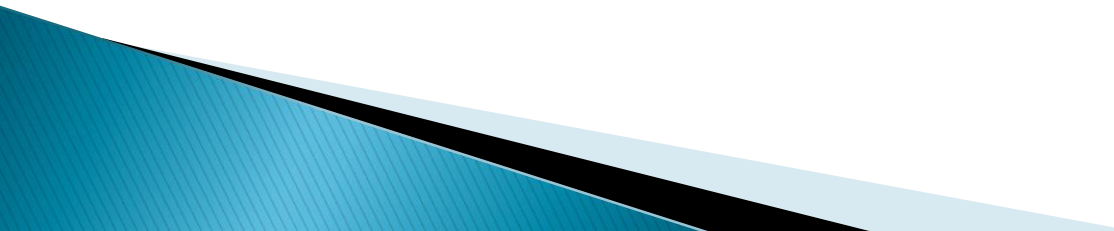


# Too many subjects?

- ▶ Do not take on too much.
- ▶ You will spread yourself too thinly.
- ▶ Be wary of taking on a new subject in 6<sup>th</sup> yr.



# Parents: Be informed & involved too

- ▶ Assist your child, discuss their choices
  - ▶ Encourage your child to consider their choices carefully.
  - ▶ Students should not choose a subject because their friend is doing it or because someone told them it is an easy option.
  - ▶ There are no easy options at Senior Cycle
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# Choosing Subjects

- ▶ Do your research
- ▶ Consult college websites
- ▶ Talk to people you know in careers or courses
- ▶ Ask for advice



# Study at Senior Cycle

- ▶ Big level jump from JC and TY
- ▶ Start a regular study routine from the first week of 5<sup>th</sup> yr
- ▶ Students who do well at Leaving Cert are those who work steadily for 2 years





# Useful websites:



▶ [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)

• [www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)

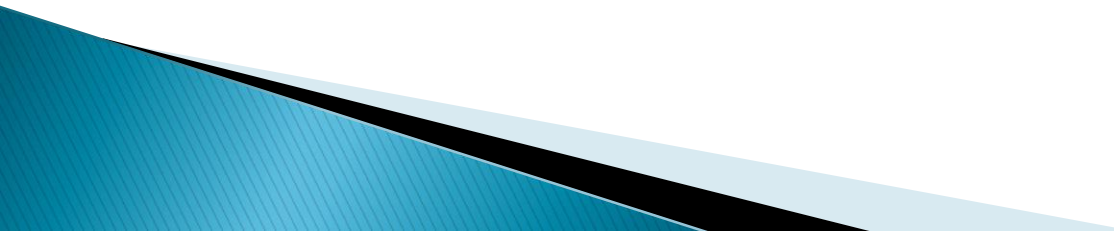
• [www.apprenticeship.ie](http://www.apprenticeship.ie)

• [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) (UK courses)

• [www.eunicas.ie](http://www.eunicas.ie) (Courses in Europe)

• [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie)

# Go to College Open Days

- ▶ October and November every weekend
  - ▶ Essential to visit colleges in 5<sup>th</sup> as well as 6<sup>th</sup> yr
  - ▶ Talk to lecturers, students, see facilities etc....
  - ▶ Get in the habit of reading the Careers Notice board for up to date news and events
- 



# Students and Parents

▶ Sign up to :

▶ [www.careersnews.ie](http://www.careersnews.ie)

# What do you need to do?

- ▶ Research
- ▶ Discuss
- ▶ Reflect
- ▶ Decide





- ▶ Make sure you return option forms to the office by
- ▶ Monday March 2nd
  - Thank You