



September 2021

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I am writing to you with reference to your daughter's Leaving Cert Subject Choice which is part of her Transition Year programme.

The process of choosing subjects does not commence this year until February 2022 and but I am writing to you now, to put your mind at rest that this part of the TY programme is given a lot of time and emphasis in school and to give you information on same.

As you know, the opportunity to sample all the LC Optional Subjects is an integral and ongoing part of the TY programme. To complement and add to this classroom experience, we conduct Career Interest and Aptitude Assessments to help our students make more informed choices. No preparation is required for the assessments. There is no 'pass or fail' and absolutely no reason to be anxious.

I wish to highlight important dates in your daughter's TY schedule in relation to this subject choice process. It is essential that your daughter is present for her assigned dates. We have been making significant changes and improvements to this process over the last couple of years and this is to afford our students the best opportunity to increase their self-knowledge in terms of strengths, abilities, aptitudes, interests, work values, skills etc. The greater the accurate knowledge a student has of themselves from a career perspective, the more the successful the subject and career choice. We feel it is important to emphasise the impact of decisions made at this time in order to best help our students with subject and career choice.

We use the online/digital Psychometric Assessments through a company called MyFutureChoice (My CareerChoices and MyAptitude). (www.myfuturechoice.com)

- MyCareerChoices is a Career Interest Assessment, which helps students think carefully about their interests and identify suitable career areas for further investigation.
- The Aptitude Test is valuable for pupils in providing an objective assessment of their academic potential and innate abilities in 9 areas - an added means of assessment when matching a student with a career interest area or a more specific job. Many employers increasingly use Aptitude Tests to help with screening a candidate's suitability for a job so it is also a good opportunity for our students to gain experience of such tests.

Looking at the overlap between Career Interests, Aptitude and Learning Styles is a very useful exercise and certainly aids LC Subject Choice immensely.

In the context of Career Guidance, Aptitude Tests are designed to measure ability across a range of areas. They are not IQ tests. We use them so that your daughter can identify her abilities and strengths and set subject, career and educational goals to match. The tests measure ability. This is different to Junior or Leaving Cert exams, which measure performance and achievement. These assessments can never provide a complete picture of your daughter but are useful as one element in a process enabling her to get the true measure of herself.

Each student will receive -

- An individual Career Interest and Aptitude report on her results.
- Action Plans and Career Analysis Forms.
- Online access to MyFutureJourney.
- A St Angela's College Subject Choice Booklet outlining subjects offered, content, assessment, connecting careers etc.

There will also be Teacher Presentations of all LC Subjects in school for the students and there is an annual Subject Choice Information Evening for parents/guardians (subject to Covid-19 restrictions).

All of this information is obviously used specifically for Subject Choice this year, but we also use it and add to it in a 5th Career Module and in 6th Year weekly Career Classes. It has been my experience, that the results of these assessments are very accurate when choosing career areas and courses in 6th Year.

The cost will be €40 per student which will be payable through the school app. Payment is open now to facilitate those who wish to meet this cost sooner rather than later. Payment can be viewed under TY Career Interest and Aptitude Testing 2022. If any parent has difficulty meeting this payment, please contact Fiona in the office in confidence.

The whole TY Programme is expertly compiled and components such as Work Experience, Community Work, TY Subject Modules, students' engagement in college and industrial outreach programmes, trips and events, speakers and workshops all contribute to greater self-knowledge and in turn, successful career and subject choice.

The dates to keep in mind with regards to LC Subject Choice are as follows –

Work Experience	February 7 th to 18 th inclusive
Final date for payment of €40 through school app	March 1st
Students given login details and time to check setup of online Assessment system	March 2 nd
Completion of Aptitude & Career Interest Assessments at home and online over this weekend. This Assessment will take c. 3 hours in total but does not have to be completed in one sitting	March 4 th , 5 th and 6 th
Feedback of results and in-school subject choice information	March 21st and 22nd
Teacher LC Subject Presentation Days for students	March 24 th and 25 th
TY Information Evening for parents and students with regards to Subject Choice for 5 th Year (Covid-19 dependent)	TBC
Subject Choice submission deadline	April 8 th

My hope is that the students will make informed decisions on entry to the Leaving Cert cycle and have greater understanding of themselves and the relevance of subject choice in relation to career choice and college requirements.

I hope that this information is helpful to you.

Best wishes,




Ms Niav Gallagher

Mr Pat Curran

Guidance Counsellor

Principal