



February 2021

## SUBJECT CHOICES FOR LEAVING CERTIFICATE 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Over the coming weeks the 4<sup>th</sup> Year students will be assisted in deciding which subjects they will take in their Leaving Certificate Examination 2023. A copy of **Our Lady's School Subject Choice Booklet** will be provided to your daughter and is also available on the school website and app. We hope you find the information in this booklet useful in enabling your daughter to make well-informed decisions about subject choices for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year.

At Our Lady's School, we provide 4<sup>th</sup> Year students the following to assist them to make appropriate subject choices for the senior cycle:

- Our Lady's School LC Subject Choice booklet
- Career classes about LC Subject Choice
- Individual student appointments with Guidance Counsellor
- Virtual Parents Information meeting
- Individual LC subject departments will give students a presentation providing students with further information about the LC subjects
- My Future Choice- My Aptitude and Eirquest Interest Assessments

The results of these assessments will be discussed with the students and their results are available online for you to view with your daughter. They are available at <a href="https://login.myfuturejourney.com/">https://login.myfuturejourney.com/</a> Students need to log into their account to access their results. This information reveals a picture of the student's stronger occupational and academic interests and related abilities. It includes results of the My Aptitude Test. This test comprises an assessment of a student's: Verbal Reasoning, Numerical Reasoning, Abstract Reasoning, Spatial Reasoning, Spelling, Arithmetic Calculation and Working Quickly and Accurately. The results are relevant in making college course selections and career decisions. They also throw light on a student's thinking and learning styles. We encourage you to read this information with your daughter and hope it is useful in helping students to identify the appropriate range of subjects to choose for their Leaving Certificate.

We will be holding a virtual Parents' Information Evening on Subject Choice on <u>Tuesday</u> <u>23rd February 2021 at 7pm.</u> A link to this meeting will be shared with you on the day through the school app.

In early March your daughter will attend a number of presentations, which will be given by the various subject departments to inform them about the Leaving Certificate subjects on offer in Our Lady's School. Each student will have an individual meeting with the Guidance Counsellor to discuss her career plans, subject choices and to receive feedback on her Eirquest and My Aptitude Profile results.

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We are also offering students the opportunity to investigate choosing the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme (LCA) as an alternative to the Leaving Certificate. Information will be provided about this at the Parents Information meeting. If you are interested in finding out more about the LCA please email <a href="mailto:principal@olschool.ie">principal@olschool.ie</a> before <a href="mailto:Friday 26th February 2021">Friday 26th February 2021</a>. If there is sufficient interest, a follow up LCA information virtual meeting will be arranged for <a href="mailto:Monday 1st">Monday 1st</a> March. Final declaration of interest in taking up a place in LCA must be received via email to <a href="mailto:principal@olschool.ie">principal@olschool.ie</a> by <a href="mailto:Thursday 11th March 2021">Thursday 11th March 2021</a>. A decision on the viability of running the programme will be made on the basis of the information on the level of interest received by this date. It is therefore vital to record your daughter's interest in this programme by this date.

We now have the facility to complete subject choice options on our VSWare system. We would appreciate it if you could complete your daughter's subject choices on the VSWare system by **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021**.

The VSWare link to complete Leaving Certificate subject choice will open on **Wednesday 24**<sup>th</sup> **February.** 

The compulsory subjects for the Leaving Certificate are English, Irish and Maths. In addition to this students will study four optional subjects. Care should be taken to ensure your daughter has the correct requirements for their future college course choices. Please check relevant college websites. For example a third language is generally a requirement for the NUI colleges. However some exceptions apply.

With regard to subject availability, every effort is made to offer each student her preferences. Please note however that due to timetabling restrictions, it may not be possible to offer all students their top preferences. The viability of running a specific subject is dependent on the number of students choosing this subject as an option as well as available staff resources.

The following are the steps to complete subject choices online.

- 1. Log on to olschool.vsware.ie using your username and password (please note do not put www. in front of it.) If you cannot locate your username please contact <a href="mailto:password@olschool.ie">password@olschool.ie</a> to receive it by email/text. If you have forgotten your password, please follow the steps to Create/Reset Password on the VSware homepage.
- 2. Click on Student Options in your daughter's profile.
- 3. Choose subjects 1 to 7 in order of preference.

Please see the demo video from VSware available here: https://vsware.wistia.com/medias/n7yo7lck0k and apply the same steps to OLS subject choice.

Marguerite Gorby

Principal:

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In addition to the Our Lady's School Subject Choice Booklet, information regarding subject choices can also be found on the following websites:

- www.qualifax.ie
- > www.careersportal.ie
- www.cao.ie
- > www.ucas.com
- > www.eunicas.ie
- > www.apprenticeship.ie

We hope that you will find the above useful when discussing subject choices with your daughter. If you have any questions regarding Leaving Certificate subjects in general or your daughter's subject choices please feel free to contact us. We look forward to meeting you at the virtual Parents' Information meeting on Subject Choice on <u>Tuesday 23rd February 2021 at 7pm.</u>

Yours sincerely

Lesley Porter & Mary Costello Guidance Counsellors

Barbara Nolan & Hilary Byrne Year Heads