

THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED PROGRAMME



in
Coláiste Choilm



- Introduction -

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a two-year Leaving Certificate, available to students who wish to follow a practical programme.

The Leaving Certificate Applied was introduced to Coláiste Choilm in September 2001. It has been a great success, not just in terms of results, but because of its effects on students confidence, organisational skills, communication skills and their attitude to school and their future career.

This booklet has been designed to give you information on the Leaving Certificate Applied programme in Coláiste Choilm. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Yvonne Delaney, L.C.A. Co-ordinator

COVER PHOTO

Smiles of delight from Leaving Cert Applied 2008 students, l-r, Lauren Neville, Yulanda Neville, Joe O'Mahony, Kevin Walsh, Brea O'Callaghan, Eimear Walsh, Chloe Edwards.
Picture: Tom Doherty



L.C.A. 2
Visual Art Project.

- Leaving Certificate Applied -

TERMINOLOGY

Session

For the purpose of the Leaving Certificate Applied the school year is divided into two sessions September to the end of January and February to June. The full two-year programme has four sessions all together.

Elements

The Leaving Certificate Applied is divided into three elements:

- vocational preparation,
- vocational education and
- general education.

Each element is further subdivided into courses.

Courses

A course is made up of a number of modules.

Modules

Each course area is made up of

a number of modules. A module represents approximately 40 hours i.e. 3-4 class periods per week over one session.

Key Assignments

Key assignments are learning outcomes selected from the module as being of key importance and are a minimum requirement along with at least 90% attendance to gain credit for a module.

Task

A task is a practical activity by which learning is applied to the development of a product, the investigation of an issue or the provision of a service. It plays a role in integrating the curriculum and should take at least 10 hours excluding the report.

- Curriculum -

Vocational Preparation

- Guidance
- Work Experience
- Enterprise
- English and Communications

Vocational Education

- Mathematical Applications
- Information Technology (I.T.)
- Hotel, Catering and Tourism (H.T.C.)
- Graphics and Construction Studies
or
- Hair and Beauty

General Education

- Visual Art
- Social Education
- Gaeilge
- Italian
- Leisure and Recreation (P.E.)

Electives

- Religion
- Information and Communication Technology
or
- Science

- Assessment -

A student may accumulate a maximum of 200 credits. These credits are allocated on the following basis:

	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Percentages</u>
Satisfactory completion of Modules	62	31%
7 Student Tasks	70	35%
Final Examinations	68	34%

External Examinations

At the end of Year 1 students will take an examination in Gaeilge.

At the end of Year 2 students will take final examinations in:

- English and Communication
- Vocational Specialisms (2)
- Mathematical Applications
- Italian
- Social Education

Module Completion

At the end of each session the participant will be credited on satisfactory completion of the appropriate modules.

In order to be awarded credit participants must:

- Attend 90% of classes and out of school activities related to the modules
- Complete the key assignments related to the modules.

*Minister for Education and Science
Batt O'Keeffe T.D. congratulates Kevin Walsh
on achieving a distinction in the L.C.A. Programme.*



- Tasks -

Over the duration of the Leaving Certificate Applied program each student must undertake seven student tasks:

- Vocational Preparation Task
- Vocational Education Task (x2)
- General Education Task
- Contemporary Issues Task
- Practical Achievement Task
- Personal Reflection Task

L.C.A. 1. Enterprise Task - charity fashion show.



YEAR 1

Session 1

- P.E. or Art Task (*alternate years*)

Session 2

- H.C.T.
- Enterprise
- Personal Reflection Task

YEAR 2

Session 1

- Contemporary Issues Task
- Graphics & Construction Studies or Hair & Beauty
- Practical Achievement Task

Session 2

- Personal Reflection Task

A student's view on L.C.A. in Coláiste Choilm

I can honestly say that my time spent doing L.C.A., were the most enjoyable two years of my secondary school education. For the first time I was in a course that didn't focus completely on reading huge amounts of material and learning it off by heart. I had the opportunity to show-off my abilities and talents through practical projects and work experience; things I know would help me later on in my career.

I got the chance to experience working as part of a team relying on others but also making my own contributions. I learnt so much about myself during those two years and what I was capable of achieving. This gave me the confidence to put forward my own ideas and encouraged me to always do my very best. For me, my main achievement was overcoming my fear of public speaking, which I did when I had to discuss my experiences with the parents of prospective L.C.A. student on our Open Night. This was something I would have never had the confidence to do before.

L.C.A. also provided me with a valuable opportunity to learn about the different career choices that were available to me, many of which I would never have thought of. An important part of the course was the period in which we went on work experience. I got the chance to become familiar with a working environment, putting together projects and working under pressure in order to meet deadlines. I feel that this was the main factor in helping me to choose the career that I am currently pursuing, interior design.

I also got to enjoy learning about other interesting subjects. Hotel, Catering and Tourism and Hair and Beauty for example, were two of my favourite subjects. Cooking and trying out new recipes have always been a favourite past time of mine, and as part of L.C.A. I got a chance to put this interest to practical use when we held a Food Fair in the school as part of one of our assignments. It was a great success, everyone enjoyed it and we got to try so many different cuisine.

The Hair and Beauty course was also something I really enjoyed. Even though it involved a lot of research and practical work I found it a very relaxing subject as I enjoyed it so much. The teacher took a very hands-on approach and we got to learn many useful skills through giving one another facials, manicures, wash and blow dries and lots more. The fact that it wasn't based completely on learning off a load of theory makes it so much easier to learn.

An example of the type of assignments we did over the two years are:

- 'Baby Be Mine' - involved coming up with our own idea for a Valentine's Day business venture.
- Food Fair
- Teaching Basketball skills to a group of students.
- Hair and Beauty - learning grooming skills and organising a salon day.
- Practical Achievement Task - I got a chance to do a 10-week dress-making course.
- Personal Reflection Task - reflecting on my personal development.
- Social Education - raising an awareness of important key issues within our society.

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A student's view on L.C.A. in Coláiste Choilm

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The best part of the L.C.A. learning experience was that it wasn't at all hard work and meeting project deadlines, we also got to have some fun. We were awarded regularly for our hard work and dedication. The recreational activities which we took part in together make up some of my best memories of the two years. One highlight was the time we went horse-back riding. We also got to go to Oysterhaven. This trip was so much fun and it gave the group a chance to get to know one another even better, which was important when working as part of team. We organised and participated in a fashion show together to raise money for charity and towards the end of our final year we went go-karting! It was a

great day – depressing to think that it was the last activity that we were going to do as a class.

At the end of my studies, I received the ultimate reward for all the hard work I had put into the course by being publicly recognised for my achievement. In December 2007 I was awarded the 'Tomás Ó Conaill Medal' from the V.E.C.

I would definitely recommend L.C.A. to anyone interested in taking part in a worthwhile learning experience with a difference!

*Lisa O'Donovan
L.C.A. Graduate 2007*



L.C.A. I
Hotel,
Catering &
Tourism Task.

- Work Experience -

Work experience plays a very important part in the L.C.A. course. There are four blocks of work experience to be completed in the two years. Each block is for two weeks.

The Work Experience modules give the students an opportunity to develop new skills. It is recommended that each student should pick four different placements.

Work experience can help the students to discover the different career choices open to them and can help them make an informed decision about what they want to do after school.

L.C.A. 1 & 2 Ice-Skating Trip.



- Options after L.C.A. -

1. P.L.C. Courses

For example - College of Commerce, St. John's Central College, Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa. These colleges offer a range of F.E.T.A.C. courses, many of which have links to U.C.C. and C.I.T., through which students can progress onto university and institutes of technology. Applications on individual college application forms and interviews in August / September.

2. Fáilte Ireland

Training for jobs in hotel, catering and tourism industry, e.g. chef, bar management. Courses take place in training colleges. Applications forms directly to Fáilte Ireland by February and all applicants will be called for interview.

3. Apprenticeships

Training for work in trades such as carpentry, electrician, plumber etc. Applications directly to employers who will then register successful applications with FÁS for an ongoing training.

4. Work

In local industry and commercial businesses. This often involves initial training, and an opportunity may arise for further education and part-time study. Applications directly to companies or through recruitment agencies.

5. Garda Síochána

Applications accepted from those holding a merit or a distinction in L.C.A.

6. Banking

Bank of Ireland and Ulster Bank accept applications from students with distinction in L.C.A. National Irish Bank accepts merit or distinction in L.C.A. Students can apply to A.I.B. after they have obtained a level 2 N.C.V.A. qualifications through a P.L.C. course in business studies.

7. Local Authorities

The Department of the Environment and the Department of Health accept applications from students with L.C.A.

8. Nursing

L.C.A. students can enter the nursing profession via a pre-nursing P.L.C. course, followed by training in a U.K. school of nursing.



- V.E.C. Academic Awards -

Each year Co. Cork V.E.C. presents a gold medal to the Leaving Certificate Applied student who has achieved the highest mark in County Cork. Coláiste Choilm is very proud that six of their students have won this award in the last 5 years:

2003

Laura McCarthy97%

2004

Lillian Kelly98%

2005

Stephen O'Connell96%

2006

Carolyn Crowley96%

2007

Lisa O'Donovan / Samantha Masterson ...98%



L.C.A. 2 Hair & Beauty Class 2007-2008 with teacher Laura Nagle.

