



RE: Current 1st Year Subject Choice(for students going into Second Year Sept. 2021)

Dear First Year student/Parent/Guardian,

We have received a number of queries relating to second year subject choices so please read through the following FAQs.

What does my child continue to study going into second year?

1. English,
2. Irish,
3. Maths,
4. Science,
5. History (In line with Dept of Education policy, History is now a compulsory subject for all 1st, 2nd and 3rd years),
6. Wellbeing (PE, SPHE, CSPE),
7. Short course (Continue with short course already chosen: Artistic Performance, Coding, Philosophy, GAA)
8. THREE OPTIONAL SUBJECTS - see below.

What optional subjects does my child currently study?

Your child currently studies 5 optional subjects;

1. MEL (Modern European Language - French or Spanish);
2. Geography
3. And **3 subjects from the following list:**
 - Applied Technology,
 - Business,
 - Classics,
 - Engineering,
 - Graphics,
 - Home Economics,
 - Materials Technology Wood,
 - Music,
 - Visual Art.

What do I now have to do?

You have to choose your top three optional subjects (from the five above) to continue to study into Second Year and Third Year.

How can I do this?

You will need to log onto VSware and list their subject options in order of priority for second year. Please click on the link for information on how to input subject preferences on VSware <https://support.vsware.ie/parent-app-notes-options>

When can I do this?

Subject preferences can be selected on VSware from February 1st to February 12th , 2021. Please note: Students whose preferences are not entered in the system by Feb 12th have a lesser chance of getting their preferred subjects.

Are any of the optional subjects listed 'compulsory' i.e. Modern European Language (French/Spanish)

No, they are not. HOWEVER, we would strongly advise that your child continues to study a Modern European Language (French/Spanish). This is because in order to get into some college/university courses you will need to have a Modern European Language. The vast majority of our students SHOULD be studying a MEL. However, if your child has an exemption from Irish or finds MEL exceptionally difficult, they should consider not prioritising their MEL as an optional subject.

Is it important which way I rank my subjects on VSware?

Yes. It is very important. For the vast majority of students, they will need to prioritise MEL as their FIRST option (we guarantee current 1st year students a place in a language class if they make the language their FIRST choice).

They must then prioritise the remaining optional subjects in order of priority. Please be aware that places cannot be guaranteed in any particular subject (with the exception of MEL described above).

It is important to note, that it is possible that some students may not be allocated places in their top 3 choices as space in some subjects can be limited by maximum class size and availability of specialist teachers. We will endeavour to avoid this situation as much as possible.

SAMPLE Case Study

E.G. Jane is currently studying Spanish, Geography, Home Economics, Visual Art and Classics.

She wants to continue Visual Art, Spanish and Geography. She is going to rank her subjects on VShare.

1. Spanish
2. Visual Art (most preferred)
3. Geography
4. Classics (second most likely to drop)
5. Home Economics (most likely to drop).

In the last term of school she is informed that she has been given:

1. Spanish
2. Visual Art
3. Classics

Geography was over-subscribed, so Jane did not get this optional subject; she was also able to drop her least favourite optional subject Home Economics. Geography and Home Economics will appear on her JCPA in third year.

What happens with the two subjects my child has 'dropped'?

The 2 subjects that first years drop will be included in their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) in 3rd year. Therefore, it is very important that 1st years continue to engage fully with teaching and learning of all of their optional subjects until the end of first year.

When will we find out what optional subjects my child has been allocated?

We expect to inform parents of the subjects their son/daughter has been allocated in the final term of this academic year.

We hope this is of help. You will get an opportunity to discuss subject options with your child's optional subject teachers at the upcoming online [Parent Teacher Meeting](#) on Wednesday 10th February. If you have any further queries, please email creaghcollege@wwetb.ie and put SECOND YEAR SUBJECT OPTIONS in the subject line.

Yours sincerely,

Senior Management