

McEgan College

LCA Information
Night

Thurs 16th April
2026



What is Leaving Cert Applied

- The Leaving Certificate Applied is a single award based on a unified programme, rather than a set of grades achieved in subjects. It is a self-contained two year programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life.
- The programme puts an emphasis on forms of achievement and excellence, which the Established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past.



Who would benefit most

- LCA is intended to meet the needs of students who are NOT adequately catered for by other Leaving Cert programmes or who choose not to opt for such programmes.
- Learners who wish to follow a practical or vocationally orientated programme or enter the world of work.
- It prepares learners for the demanding transition to adult and working life .
- Students who have difficulty with rote learning rather than learning by doing.
- Students who have difficulty with essay type answers. Students with poor attention span and poor retention skills.
- Students who are not prepared to study for at least 2 hours per night for L. Cert.



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The Programme is designed to allow students opportunities to apply their learning and experiences over the two years to practical tasks at school, in the workplace and in the wider community



The advantages of LCA

- It focuses on the talents of each individual student and helps students apply what they learn in the real world.
- It caters for and rewards all types of learners.
- It provides for the development of students self esteem, and their sense of responsibility.
- Promotes decision making skills and communication.
- It equips students with interview and presentation skills.
- It builds teamwork skills and teaches the student personal responsibility.



What LCA students like about the programme

- Less homework
- Less Stress
- Less pressure overall
- I like the smaller class size
- You learn Skills for life
- The small class is better if you can't concentrate in bigger class
- Its more relaxed
- I get on better with teachers in LCA
- Key assignments are better than exams
- Work experience helps with what you want to do in future
- The Maths are easier

How is LCA Structured

- The 2 year programme is divided into 4 blocks called Sessions and students are credited for work completed in each Session.
- Session 1 is from September to end of January and Session 2 from February to June of 5th year. Sessions 3 & 4 take place in 6th Yr
- *Students **must attain 90% attendance in each session**, otherwise all credits are lost. (Medically certified absences are accepted and student does not lose credits in that situation)*

Subjects studied in Leaving Cert Applied

- English
- Maths
- Social Education
- Languages
- Arts Education
- Engineering
- IT
- VPG
- PE
- Graphics & Construction
- Hotel Catering and Tourism

Subject Insights

Soccer Blitz with local primay school



Macroom Tidy Towns Talk



Breakfast & Food Product Development

1st Yr Christmas Breakfast



Food Product Development



Work Experience

- In addition to the subjects listed previously, students also undertake four work experience placements over the two years .
- These practical placements provide the student with first hand experiences of the work place, allows them to explore possible career options and to actively develop skills for future employability.
- Work experience is one day per week , usually on Friday.
- The school provides insurance for students while on work placement



How is LCA assessed

- Students complete Key Assignments in class and are awarded credits for these.
- Students must also complete projects called Tasks. 7 are completed over two years and are also awarded credits.
- **90% attendance, completion of key assignments and tasks account for 66% of final grade with terminal exams in 6 subjects accounting for the remaining 33%**



Do LCA Students receive a Leaving Certificate

- Yes , students who successfully complete the programme will receive a Leaving Certificate from the State Exam Commission. All credits awarded will be recorded on this Certificate.
- Certification is awarded on the basis of credits gained over the 2 years
- **Pass 120 to 139 credits**
- **Merit 140 to 169 credits**
- **Distinction 170 to 200 credits**

Further Insights into LCA

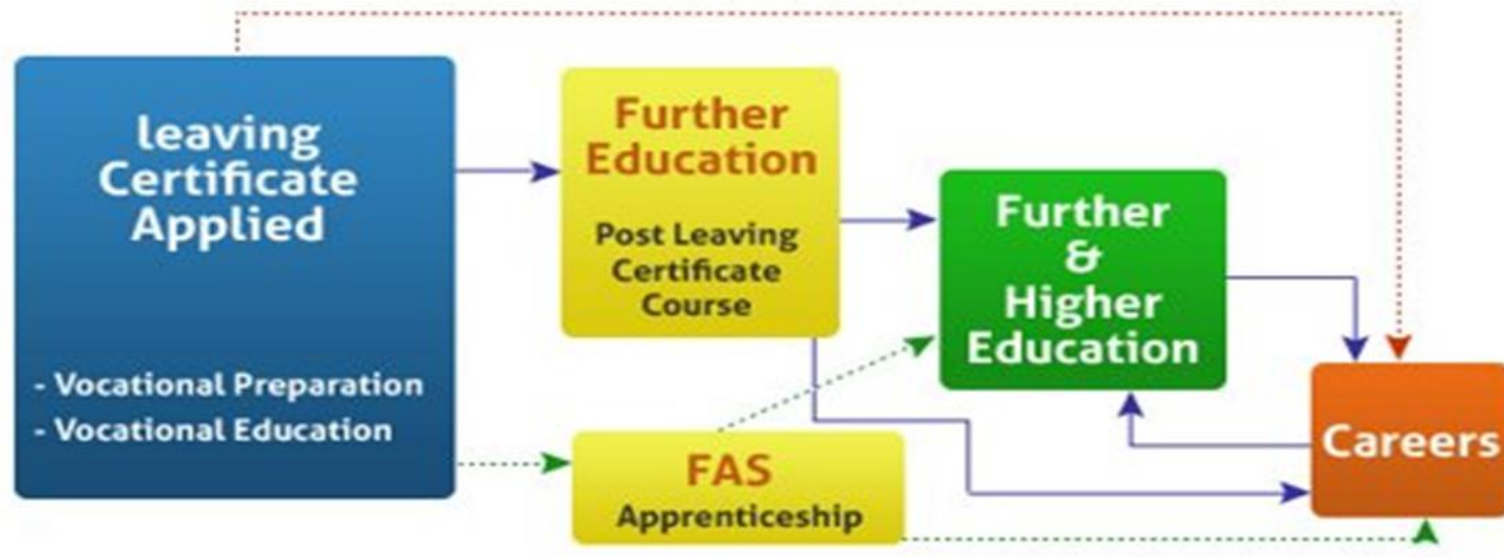


Careers

- LCA has a strong vocational dimension which equips students with skills for the world of work and life-long learning.
- Students wishing to further their education can do so by progressing to Post Leaving Cert Courses. These are usually one year courses in a wide range of areas. Students may then become eligible for admission to some third level colleges in Technological Universities.

LCA is marked differently to the traditional leaving cert but still is a gateway to third level education

The LCA Route Map.



Fergal Quinn Awards



Questions to consider when deciding on LCA?

- Is student willing to apply themselves to workload of Established Leaving Cert or not?
- What is the long term aim of the student – third level, FE, Agricultural college, self-employed, apprenticeship?
- What are the aptitudes, abilities and skills of the student?
- What type of learner is the student, preference for assignments and continuous assessment or for terminal exams?
- Does the student like school and the work ????

LCA Coordinator Details

- Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

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