

# Coláiste Dún Iascaigh First Years Subjects Guide 2023/2024



## Core Subjects

All students must study the following subjects:

*English*

*Irish*

*Mathematics*

*Science*

*Physical Education*

*Religious Education*

*Social, Personal and Health Education*

*Civic, Social and Political Education*

*History*

*Geography*

## Optional Subjects

Prospective students are asked to choose 3 more subjects from the following:

*Art, Business Studies, French, German, Spanish, Polish, Technical Graphics, Woodwork, Metalwork, Technology, Music, Home Economics.*

A brief explanation of these subjects is given below and in pages that follow.

## Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

Our school offers **Spanish, German, French and Polish** at Junior Cycle. In this school these languages are optional. **Some courses in some colleges require another language in addition to Irish and English- In general these are courses in NUI universities and include Medicine, Veterinary, Law, Architecture, Business, Arts and Social Science....but while a total of 159 courses require a language- most courses do not- some 1410 courses do not require a language.** So choose subjects carefully. If you are sure that you do not want to study courses such as those listed above which require a language and you feel that you may with do better in other subjects, then it is ok not to do a language. [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) has a Minimum Subject Requirements checking tool. Our school website has a link to our Careersportal page which gives more detail on subjects for JC.

## Course Content

Students will learn to read, write, speak and understand the language. Students will also learn about life and culture in countries that speak that language.

## Who would this subject suit?

This subject would suit students who have a love of languages and who are good at Irish, English or picking up other languages.

It may also suite students who have a holiday home abroad or speak a different language at home.

### **Type of Homework/Projects/Assignments**

Using vocabulary correctly and appropriately with the help of dictionaries. Talking and writing about yourself in the foreign language. Reading magazines, newspaper articles. Listening to audio files and watching videos.

### **Career Note**

In general, a pass grade in the Leaving Certificate in a foreign language is necessary for entry to the universities in the National University of Ireland, as mentioned earlier, though increasingly there are exceptions to this rule, particularly for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths degrees.

### **Progression after the Junior Cycle**

To do a language at Leaving Certificate Level, the student should have done that language for the Junior Cycle. Exceptions are other languages not mentioned above that students may speak, read and write at home.

### **Art**

This subject welcomes, nurtures and enables students to learn and explore the creative world of Art, Craft & Design and reach their full potential.

### **Course Content**

- Drawing - i.e. drawing people, objects, analytical drawing
- Painting and Mixed Media Still Life - drawing inanimate (not living) objects Graphic Design - posters, advertising, stamps, book covers
- Craftwork - block printing, calligraphy, embroidery, fabric printing, weaving, puppetry, pottery 3D work - sculpture, wood carving, construction, modelling

### **Who would this subject suit?**

This subject suits all levels and abilities, especially those with a creative outlook and imagination.

### **Type of Homework / Projects / Assignments**

Drawing, painting, design, and craft and research.

**Other points:** Students must be able to apply themselves to project work. Natural ability alone is not enough. At Junior Cycle level, students develop their skills, explore their creative side and maximise their possibilities.

**Career Note:** Not all colleges require art as an essential subject for entry to art courses, however any student considering a career in art & design, graphics, industrial design, craftwork, architecture etc., would be strongly advised to consider it for Junior Cycle and also for Leaving Certificate. It is also very useful for primary school teaching and apprenticeships.

### **Progression after the Junior Cycle**

To do Art at Leaving Certificate Level it is desirable but not essential to have studied Art for the Junior Cycle.

### **Business Studies**

This subject looks at how businesses are set up, managed and financed. This subject has a very practical and modern approach to business - including setting up your own business.

### **Course Content**

Budgeting (household / businesses), consumer rights, banking, cheques, accounts (final accounts, club accounts), running your own business, industrial relations, etc.

### **Who would this subject suit?**

This subject would suit students who are interested in business and entrepreneurship and those who show an interest in setting up their own business eventually.

### **Type of Homework/Projects/Assignments**

Essays, multiple choice, projects, etc.

### **Career Note**

It is particularly useful though not essential for courses in accounting, advertising, banking, business, commerce, finance, management (incl. hotel management), marketing, and taxation.

It would be a very useful subject for students who intend to set up their own business.

### **Progression after the Junior Certificate**

To do Accounting at Leaving Certificate Level, it would be beneficial for the student to choose Business for the Junior Cycle, however this is not essential.

### **Technical Graphics**

Graphics is recognised as the underpinning language of the technology disciplines and is transferable across a wide range of subjects such as mathematics, science and art. Students will use a variety of media to communicate their ideas and designs through this unique language. Throughout the course, students will explore the geometric world to gain an appreciation of the importance of graphics in the world around them. They will develop cognitive and practical skills such as graphical communication, spatial visualisation, creative problem-solving, design capabilities and modelling, both hand drawn and through the use of computer-aided design.

### **Course Content**

The course consists of developing the student's creativity, spatial ability, and capacity to reason and communicate ideas through engagement with abstract and applied geometric problem solving activities. It will also encourage the production

of drawings that promotes the skills of communicating through graphics.

#### **Who would this subject suit?**

This subject would suit students who have a love of drawing and problem solving. Being able to draw neatly and clearly is essential. It would suit students who enjoy problem solving and reasoning through drawing.

#### **Type of Homework/Projects/Assignments.**

All the classes are practical and students will be drawing, drafting and using available technologies and software, such as SolidWorks to create digital 3D artefacts.

#### **Career Note**

Graphics is not essential for architecture, engineering, or quantity surveying but any student thinking of a career in these areas would benefit much from the skills learned. It is also desirable for courses in technology and engineering, and it would be very useful for any students interested in trades such as mechanic, electrician or plumber.

#### **Progression after the Junior Cycle**

To do Graphics at Leaving Certificate Level, it is desirable but not essential to do Graphics for the Junior Cycle. It will also support other careers mentioned above.

#### **Woodwork**

Materials Technology- Wood (Woodwork) is a practical, hands-on subject, which gives students a good foundation in woodworking and graphical skills to enable students design and manufacture wooden items. Wood Technology is a subject that will allow students to explore and learn about a key natural and manmade resources that our current environment provides.

#### **Course Content**

In Wood Technology, students will explore the natural and made world through the medium of design, seeking out opportunities to creatively and innovatively apply the material/resource. They will also learn to identify different types of trees and wood and their properties and uses.

#### **Who would this subject suit?**

Wood Technology would suit students who might like a subject with a large practical element. Students who like working with their hands to problem solve would enjoy this subject.

#### **Career Note**

Wood Technology would be of benefit to those hoping to study courses in Architecture, Civil Engineering, Quantity Surveying, Site Management. It would be particularly useful for work in the Building Trades, or for training as a Carpenter or a Woodwork Teacher.

### **Progression after the Junior Cycle**

To do Construction Studies at Leaving Certificate level, a student is encouraged to have completed Wood Technology for the Junior Cycle.

### **Music**

The music course is designed to be a fun and enjoyable way for students to experience and learn about music in their lives. It features elements that appeal to every student, whether you're a performer, a composer, enjoy listening to your music on your iPad or simply love everything musical.

### **Course Content**

The Junior Cycle music course has 3 main sections:

#### **Listening Skills-**

Students learn about different styles of music, music from diverse cultures, various musical instruments from around the world, the science of sound, and music in our day to day lives.

**Composing Skills-** Students learn everything from song writing, to composing raps, music for advertising, film music, and music for video games.

### **Performance Skills-**

In the music classroom students learn how to perform as a class or 'ensemble' as well as how to perform on their own or in smaller groups.

### **Who would this subject suit?**

This subject would suit any student who loves music and likes to express themselves. It is a subject for students keen to explore their creative side as well as those students for whom music is a big part of their lives. You do not need any previous musical experience to choose music for Junior Cycle and do well in the subject. An ability to play an instrument is an advantage.

### **Type of Homework/ Projects/ Assignments**

The homework and assignments are varied. Examples of work/ assignments include using music technology to create music, recording live instruments, researching assignments, performance tasks, active listening activities, and collaborating on group compositions or performances.

### **Career Note**

The new Junior Cycle music course introduces music students to the many different career opportunities that are out there. These include jobs in the media, film and television, advertising and marketing, website design, sound engineering, and content creation online. Students also learn about careers as

performers and composers and all the different opportunities there are for those who like to perform and compose.

### **Progression after the Junior Cycle**

Music for Junior Cycle prepares students for our senior cycle music course. It is advantageous to students who wish to study music for Leaving Certificate to study music in Junior Cycle.

### **Home Economics**

The central focus of Home Economics is achieving optimal, healthy and sustainable living for individuals, families and society. Students learn about food, nutrition, diet and health; family and social concerns; consumer issues; sustainability in the home; responsible family resource management; and textiles and clothing. Home Economics education develops students' essential lifeskills and personal independence.

### **Course Content**

The course consists of three strands:

1. Food, Health and Culinary Skills- encourages students to develop a healthy relationship with food through practical learning. They apply their understanding of nutrition, diet and health principles to adopt a healthy lifestyle and make informed decisions that impact their own and others health and wellbeing.
2. Responsible Family Living- Students develop skills to manage resources responsibly in the home, family and community.
3. Textiles and Crafts- focuses on developing students' textile skills, knowledge and creativity. Practical textile and craft skills

are integral to this strand and include hand and machine sewing skills, and fabric texturing and embellishment techniques.

### **Who would this subject suit?**

This is a subject that can be very interesting and relevant for all students who are interested in applying the knowledge they learn in class to practical settings.

The final examination consists of a practical food skills examination and a written examination. The practical examination and the written examination will each be allocated 50% of the marks available.

**Type of Homework/Projects/Assignments** Creating food pyramids; designing menus; assessing special diets; examining and interpreting food labels to compare food products; following recipes and cooking dishes; costing recipes; using class notes and past exam papers; watching video clips, computer programs and other materials; interior design projects; budgeting; sketching items of clothing/outfits; sewing to make small items for yourself or your home; keeping a record of work and recipes.

### **Career Note**

Home Economics will be useful in the following career areas: culinary arts; dietitian/nutritionist; food scientist; nursing; interior design; fashion design; social care and tourism courses etc... and for family life and every day living. It is a life skill.

### **Progression after Junior Cycle**

To study Home Economics Social and Scientific at Leaving Certificate Level, the student, ideally should have studied Home Economics for their Junior Cycle, but it is not essential.

### **Technology**

In Technology, students will use the design process to work through a task or problem order to arrive at a solution, which is usually in the form of an artefact or finished product. Students will learn how to safely use the tools, materials and equipment necessary to make this product.

### **Course Content**

The course has 3 components-Continuous based assessment, project work & the written exam. As part of the coursework, students will design and make a project based on a given brief. Students will also complete a written exam.

### **Who would this subject suit?**

Students who like working out problems with different mechanisms and programming. It will really suit students who enjoy being practical and are creative using a range of materials and mechanisms in inventive ways.

### **Type of Homework/Projects/Assignments**

Using the tools and equipment necessary to complete projects. Working with materials like wood, metals and plastics. Using

electronic components to build simple circuits for use in tasks and projects. Compiling portfolios and written work.

### **Progression after the Junior Cycle**

It is preferable to have studied technology at Junior Cycle in order to study it at Leaving Certificate, but not essential.

### **Career Note**

Technology will help you to solve many technological problems you may experience in your everyday life. It will also teach you skills in the use of basic tools and equipment. Although not necessary, it will be very useful for students who wish to pursue careers in engineering or technology sectors as well as engineering and electrical or mechanical trades or courses.

### **Metalwork- (Materials Technology- Metal)**

#### **Course Content**

Junior Cycle Metalwork provides students in the Junior Cycle of post-primary education with an introduction to materials and process engineering and an insight into associated technology. It is founded in practical activity that seeks to link observation and action with innovation and problem-solving

#### **Who would this subject suit?**

This subject would suit students who enjoy problem solving and practical work, attention to detail, making objects and component parts and finishing them to a high standard.

### Type of Homework/Projects/Assignments

The course has two main sections: (i) Techniques and Design, which incorporates all of the practical work, and (ii) Materials and Technology, which is the related technical and technological principles and theory.

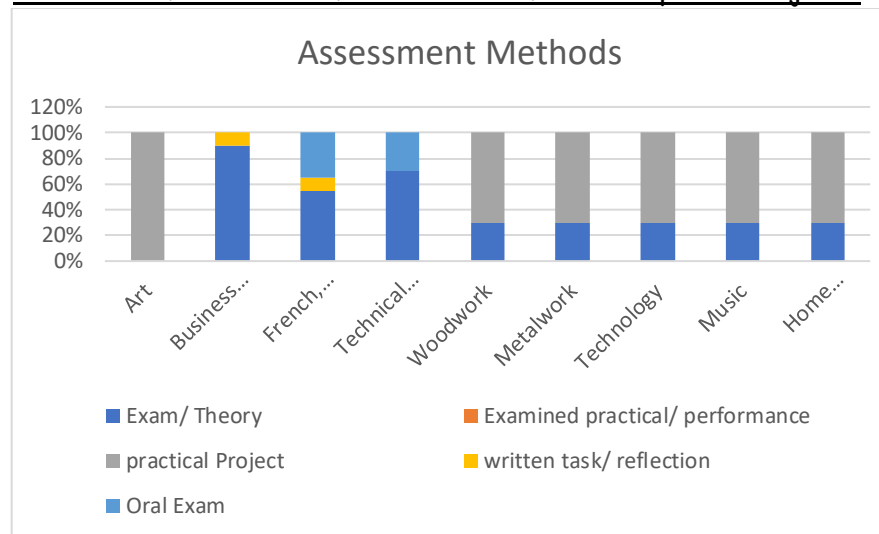
### Career Note

Metalwork would benefit those hoping to study courses in Engineering and Design. It would be particularly useful for work in Engineering related Trades such as Fitter, Mechanic, Fabricator, Agricultural and Mechanical Engineering, Toolmaking etc....

### Progression after the Junior Cycle

It is preferable that students will have studied metalwork at Junior Certificate in order to do Engineering at Leaving Certificate but not essential.

### Overview of Methods of Assessment for the Option Subjects



Subject	Exam/ Theory	Examined practical/ performance	practical Project	written task/ reflection	Oral Exam
Art	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Business Studies	90%	0%	0%	10%	0%
French, German, Span, Polish	55%	0%	0%	10%	35%
Technical Graphics	70%	0%	0%	0%	30%
Woodwork	30%	0%	70%	0%	0%
Metalwork	30%	0%	70%	0%	0%
Technology	30%	0%	70%	0%	0%
Music	30%	0%	70%	0%	0%
Home Economics	30%	0%	70%	0%	0%