

**ST. AIDAN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED POLICY**

## **Background to the LCA**

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a distinct, 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. It is an innovative programme in the way students learn, in what they learn and in the way their achievements are assessed.

The LCA is intended to meet the needs of those students who are not adequately catered for by other Leaving Certificate programmes or who choose not to opt for such programmes.

The advantage of the Leaving Certificate Applied is that it focuses on the talents of each individual student and helps students apply what they learn in the real world. The two year programme consists of four half year blocks called sessions and achievements are credited in each of these sessions.

## **LCA in St. Aidan's Community College**

The LCA was introduced to recognise the talents of all students and to provide those not adequately catered for by the traditional Leaving Certificate with opportunities for development in terms of responsibility, self-esteem, and self-knowledge. The programme was introduced to St. Aidan's Community College in 2006. The maximum number of students in each LCA class is 16 students.

## **LCA Personnel and Classes**

**LCA Coordinator:** Eamon Breen

**Class Tutor:** Each LCA class is assigned a Class Tutor

## Pupil Selection

Students are selected for the LCA based on their suitability for the programme. The selection process involves:

- Liaison with the pupil's parents: An Information Session on the Programme is provided for parents and students
- Application form: A written application form must be completed in respect of each student intending to enrol on the LCA programme.
- Interview: All Prospective candidates for the programme are interviewed by the LCA coordinator
- Academic Review: third- and fourth-year class tutors, year tutors and core subject teachers are consulted to assess the student's performance in the school up to Junior Cycle/Transition Year.
- Three quarters of the LCA positions will be reserved for 4<sup>th</sup> years.
- Attendance, referrals, cards, and suspensions are taken into account when students are being selected for LCA.
- In relation to attendance, a student who has not provided the LCA coordinator with proof of doctor's cert/visit to dentist etc. and does not have 90% attendance will be removed from the LCA programme. The student will move into either 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> year. A cert should be provided within a week of returning from an absence.
- Late transfers into LCA are dependent on availability of a place in the course as classes are limited as stated by LCA guidelines. Late transfers must have a completed application form and a satisfactory interview with the Principal and LCA coordinator.

Based on the above the student's suitability for the programme is assessed and if his/her application is deemed successful, the student will be offered a place on the programme for the following September.

## Curriculum

The subjects offered by St. Aidan's C.C. in the LCA programme may be as follows (depends on the schools ability to offer the subjects):

### **Vocational Preparation and Guidance:**

Career Guidance

Work Experience [4 modules over 2 years – 40 days in total]

Jobsearch/Enterprise [Year 1], Community Work [Year 2]

English and Communications

**Vocational Education:**

Hotel, Catering and Tourism/Graphics and Construction Studies

Office Administration and Customer Care/ Engineering

Mathematical Applications

Introduction to ICT

**General Education:**

Social Education – Contemporary Issues

Gaeilge [Year 1]

Spanish [Year 2]

Arts Education [Visual Art & Music]

Leisure and Recreation

**Electives:**

Science

Childcare

Active Leisure

## **Work Experience**

Work Experience is on Monday for LCA 1 and Friday for LCA 2. Students complete four modules of work experience spread over four sessions. It's up to students to find work placements themselves. Students must choose different placements for three out of the four work placements. Students must complete in a total of 40 days' work placement. Students must complete and return the student indemnity form and the employer information forms to the LCA coordinator.

## Tasks

The seven tasks completed by students are as follows:

Vocational Preparation [Enterprise Task]

General Education [Subject area rotates between Active Leisure Studies, Gaeilge and Art]

Contemporary Issues [Social Education]

Vocational Education [Hotel, Catering and Tourism/Graphics and Construction Studies]

Vocational Education [Office Administration and Customer Care]

Personal Reflection Task

Practical Achievement Task [Students spend 1 hour a week learning a new skill outside of school]

## Assessment

The LCA programme uses a unique system of assessment. The students' work is assessed over two years of the programme and they gain credit as they go along **provided that they have a minimum of 90% attendance**. Absences are only accepted with medical notes presented within a week of returning to school after absence.

Practical work, interviews and terminal written papers are among the different forms of assessment used. Additionally, the student must complete seven Students Tasks [as outlined above] that bring together the different learning experiences that the students have gained from the courses they have taken.


As students complete the programme they collect credits – to a possible maximum of 200:

- A maximum of 62 credits [31%] are awarded for completing the required courses
- 10 credits for each of the 7 student tasks completed [70 credits, 35%] 68
- credits [34%] in total for the terminal examinations at the end of year two [or in the case of some subjects, e.g. Gaeilge, at the end of year one.]

The Leaving Certificate Applied is awarded at three levels:

- Pass [60-69%]
- Merit [70-84%]
- Distinction [85-100%]

Students who want to leave LCA or who are not meeting requirements (attendance/behaviour) will have an interview with the LCA coordinator, the HSLO and the Deputy Principal/Principal to discuss options available to the student.

Signed:   
Chairperson BOM

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024