

# Leaving Certificate Applied Policy

Adopted by Board on Management 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018

## Introduction

The Leaving Certificate Applied programme (LCA) is a two-year programme designed to prepare students for adult life and future employment. It is a self-contained programme that focuses on promoting and rewarding student achievement.

The programme provides students with opportunities to develop new skills and talents in areas such as self-directed learning, responsibility, communication and self-esteem. The LCA takes a significantly different approach to student assessment when compared to the traditional Leaving Certificate examination. It is a creative and innovative programme both in terms of student learning and teaching methodologies.

In Kishoge Community College the programme complements other senior cycle programmes such as the traditional Leaving Certificate, the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme, and the Transition Year Programme. The LCA is provided to cater for students who, having completed the Junior Certificate examination, would benefit from a programme with a teaching and assessment structure different from the traditional Leaving Certificate.

## Applying for the Leaving Certificate Applied programme

- The Principal of Kishoge Community College will appoint an LCA programme coordinator. The coordinator, in conjunction with other members of staff as nominated by the Principal, will assess the suitability of students to participate in the LCA programme.
- The LCA coordinator will, in consultation with teachers, Year Heads, Principal/Deputy Principal, identify students who, based on their experience at junior cycle, may be suitable for participation in the LCA.
- Parents of this group of students will be invited to the school to discuss the LCA programme and whether the LCA might best meet their son/daughter's educational needs.
- Information in relation to the LCA will be made available to parents and students in Third Year and Transition Year in February/March preceding the commencement of the programme.
- Applications from students who have completed the Junior Certificate examination at Kishoge Community College will be given priority. Students from Kishoge Community College who have completed the Transition Year Programme may also apply.
- Applications from students wishing to transfer from another second-level school will be processed in accordance with the *Admissions Policy*.
- Students may be required to attend for interview before their application for participation in the programme is determined. The interview may be conducted by the LCA coordinator and one other member of staff who has expertise in the LCA.
- The number of students participating in the programme is limited to 16.

- Applications for the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme will not be accepted after the 31<sup>st</sup> May prior to commencement of the programme.

### **Participating on the Leaving Cert Applied programme**

- The LCA curriculum is based on a number of modules and vocational specialisms. While every effort will be made to provide subject areas suited to student preferences and abilities, availability of modules and specialisms will be dictated by available resources.
- Work Experience is a central aspect of the LCAP. Over the two years of the programme students do four modules of work experience, each module lasting two weeks. With the assistance of the career guidance teacher students are expected to organise their own work placement.
- The nature of the LCA is such that students are expected to be self-directed in their learning. They are expected to be committed to their own learning and to the overall learning of the group.
- Meeting deadlines is essential to the success of the LCA programme. Students are therefore expected to learn how to meet deadlines and achieve targets as set out in the guidelines of the programme or as set by their teachers and by themselves.
- For assessment purposes LCA students must have 90% attendance for each subject.
- Students enrolling on the LCA programme are required to enter into a commitment to fulfil the requirements of the programme and adhere to school policies.

### **Appeals**

- In the event that a parent or student over the age of eighteen, is dissatisfied with a decision made by the school authorities, the decision may be appealed by writing to The Secretary to the Board of Management, Kishoge Community College.