



iPads at Senior Cycle

The Department of Education and Skills (DES) and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) are currently engaged in a wide-ranging review of the curriculum at Senior Cycle. This review owes much of its genesis to the frequent concerns raised by [educational research](#), by [employer groups](#) and by [universities and colleges](#) that the current model and structure of learning at upper secondary level in Ireland may no longer be fit for purpose in preparing students for the rigours of modern working life, the demands of third level courses and the digital nature of the adult world in which they will live.

Alongside the general review of senior cycle, a number of new subjects have recently been added to the Leaving Cert. These new subjects have tended to incorporate a significant technological element in their design. In the new Leaving Cert Physical Education syllabus for example, students are required to use digital technology as part of the learning experience and 40% of the assessment for the subject is based on material produced digitally by the students and submitted digitally to the SEC for assessment.

However, most subjects are still based on syllabi that have remained unchanged for a long period of time and exams and assessment are still very traditional in make-up and content. For this reason, students will continue to be assigned textbooks for their subjects. As the use of digital technology is now a core element of teachers' practice and a requirement under the Digital Framework, students will also be expected to continue to use their device to enrich their learning experience.

Teachers will continue to use Schoology as a primary method of sharing resources and communicating with students and we expect students will use both textbooks and the more diverse range of resources available through their devices to maximise their learning experience.