

# Senior Cycle Information Evening

Fáilte Romhaibh

**Thursday, 14th November 2024**

*Mr. Seamus Meehan Principal*

*Ms. Donna Kelly Deputy Principal*

*Ms. Paola Flynn 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Moltóir*

*Ms. Louise Canty Guidance Counsellor*

*Ms. Aisling Savage T Y & LCA Coordinator*



# WEBSITE

- ▶ Presentation on School Website
  - ▶ [www.ratoathcollege.ie](http://www.ratoathcollege.ie)
  - ▶ Click on Guidance
  - ▶ Click on Information for Parents
  - ▶ Senior Cycle Options Handbook



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- 1. Welcome address & Information 3<sup>rd</sup> year Moltóir**
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# Starting the Senior Cycle

- ▶ Building on the success of Junior Cycle
- ▶ Initial Issues
  - ▶ New Class Groups
  - ▶ Different Teachers
  - ▶ Homework/Study v. Personal Time
  - ▶ Option Changes
  - ▶ Pace at Senior Cycle



# Completing Junior Cycle

- ▶ Building positive habits
- ▶ Managing their time
- ▶ Responsibility for learning



# Attendance & Punctuality

So far...

- Largely positive
  - Some students with outstanding notes to be completed on Compass.
  - Lates- Much improved but some students have room for further improvement.
  - Reminder- We are obliged to report absences over 20 days to Tusla. You will receive a letter via Compass once your child has gone over 10 days, at 20 days and so on.
- ▶ There is a direct link between academic success and positive attendance / punctuality



# What you can do...

- ▶ **Encourage** your child to come to school every day at 8.30 – before assembly begins at 8.40am to organise their books
- ▶ **Ensure** your child is the correct uniform and has their materials for school e.g. books, ingredients, lunch etc.
- ▶ Where possible **organise** appointments outside of school
- ▶ **Contact** the school via Compass to report absences.
- ▶ **Monitor the Dialann** closely for positive/poor behaviours and a record of Student Progress
- ▶ Check-in with your child about their homework and revision



# What we will do...

## ▶ Teaching and Learning

- ▶ Our main goal is for your son/daughter to achieve to the utmost of their potential in the Junior Cycle.

## ▶ Care

- ▶ To achieve this, we will work with you to ensure your son/daughter remains happy, comfortable and confident in school

## ▶ Guidance

- ▶ Subject Choices, Study skills, Eirquest, Pathways, Wellbeing

## ▶ Communication

- ▶ Via compass and the dialann,

## ▶ A Holistic School Experience







## **Looking Forward to June 2025**

*“Success is the sum of small efforts,  
repeated day in and day out.” –  
Robert Collier*





# Drama, Film & Theatre Studies

New Leaving Cert Subject Pilot

2025-2026





## Welcome to Leaving Certificate Drama, Film, and Theatre Studies (DFTS)!

Following an application process with the Department of Education, the school is delighted and proud to have selected as one of the pilot schools for this new Leaving Cert subject beginning in September 2025.

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- This exciting course invites students to dive into the world of drama, film, and theatre where they'll get hands-on experience in creative projects, develop critical skills, and explore a variety of art forms.
- No prior experience in Theatre, Film or Drama is necessary.
- The course takes a multimodal approach, with equal time will be spent on the various aspects of the specification.

Are you interested in any or all of the following areas:

- Drama
- Film Studies
- Drama &/or Film Production
- Performance
- Creative Writing

## **Why Choose Drama, Film, and Theatre Studies?**

DFTS is not only for aspiring actors!!!

It's also for aspiring writers, producers, directors, lighting and sound technicians...





## Assessment & Reflection

- The course is designed to make sure students understand the full creative process, from brainstorming ideas to the final performance. To help measure their progress, students will keep a **portfolio** with notes, sketches, and reflections on each project.
- Students' final grade will be split between a **written exam** in June of 6<sup>th</sup> Year and a **Creativity in Practice Project (ACTs)** . This project will give them a chance to demonstrate what they've learned by responding creatively.



# Applied Creative Tasks (ACTs)

The practical heart of the course, Applied Creative Tasks, involve three major projects over two years. These tasks are designed to let students use everything they're learning in a creative, hands-on way:

## **Task 1: Creating an Ensemble Theatre Piece**

Students will work together to create a short theatre piece. They'll get to experience all aspects of theatre production, from acting to designing costumes and sets, and will present this live to an audience.

## **Task 2: Making a Film Sequence**

This task focuses on creating a short film or a sequence of scenes. Students will plan, record, and edit, learning film techniques and how to tell a story on screen

## **Task 3: Developing a Theatre Piece or Short Film**

This final task lets students choose to create either a theatre piece or a short film. Inspired by a live performance or film they've seen, Students will work individually or with others to produce a piece that reflects their own artistic vision and knowledge.



# Application Process

- As a pilot subject, the number of places available for students will be limited.
- Expression of Interest and Application forms will be made available *after the TY Application Process is complete*.
- If more students apply than there are places available, students will be selected taking into account their Third Year/TY record.
- NB – note that DFTS will not be included in the normal subject choice process.



# How are we preparing?

Continuous Professional Development for the teachers assigned to the subject is underway.

The Dept has promised that the school will receive subject specific funding and resources (but we're not holding our breath) and we have set assigned a designated teaching space as required.

Students are encouraged to speak with **Ms Fox** or **Mr Davis** if they have questions about DFTS before the application process begins.

For more information:

Search "Leaving Cert Drama, Film & Theatre Studies" and visit Curriculum Online.

# SUBJECT CHOICE PROCESS

- ▶ On-going Process
- ▶ Speak to individual subject teachers
- ▶ Parents
- ▶ Psychometric assessments-My Future Choice
- ▶ Subject Choice Booklet- Detailed and comprehensive guide to all senior cycle subjects & Form
- ▶ Career workshop at lunchtime on Mondays
- ▶ Individual guidance meetings if needed
- ▶ Parents liaise with Guidance Counsellors if needed
- ▶ All 3rd Years given a Subject Choice presentation
- ▶ Career Fair on Thursday 28th November 2024



# Leaving Cert: Grades and Points

New Grades	% Marks	Higher Points	Ordinary Points
H1 / O1	90 – 100	100	56
H2 / O2	80 – 90	88	46
H3 / O3	70 – 80	77	37
H4 / O4	60 – 70	66	28
H5 / O5	50 – 60	56	20
H6 / O6	40 – 50	46	12
H7 / O7	30 – 40	37	0
H8 / O8	0 - 30	0	0

**Bonus 25 points for Leaving Cert Higher Maths Grade H6 and above only**

The six highest scores in a single sitting of the examination are then added to give an applicant's total points score.



# It's not just about the points!

## Other Requirements:

### ► Individual College "Matriculation"

This refers to the minimum entry requirements for a college. Most colleges require a pass in English or Irish and Mathematics plus 4 other subjects. NUI Colleges have specific requirements requiring English and Irish and a **foreign language** as well as three other subjects.

A foreign language is not required for Science, Nursing, agriculture and Engineering courses. Maynooth University have dropped the language requirement for its Business, Accounting, Finance and Law Courses.



# Language Exemption

- ▶ Where a student is exempt from Irish because of a specific learning difficulty, for example dyslexia, they will also be exempted from the foreign language requirement for NUI Matriculation purpose.
- ▶ Students must submit evidence of exemption to the NUI. This is a process for this in 6th year.



# It's not just about the points!

## Other Requirements:

### ▶ Course Subject Requirements

- ▶ Certain courses require a particular grade in a subject: H4 in Honours Irish for Primary School Teaching, H4 Maths for Engineering in TCD
- ▶ Chemistry is required for some courses for example Veterinary Medicine in UCD (need H5 Chemistry)
- ▶ Some colleges require 2 science subjects for some courses, for example Medicine in Trinity College require H3 and H4 in two sciences
- ▶ **Colleges and courses differ, and entry requirements change over time, so it is essential that you fully research college requirements and career pathways.**

### ▶ And of course there is the..... 'The Points'

- ▶ The Maynooth Bachelor of Arts Degree, CAO Code: MH101 CAO points  
2023: 310 2024:307



# SENIOR CYCLE

Ratoath College offers three programmes at Senior Cycle

## Leaving Cert

- Established Leaving Cert (LCE)
- Leaving Cert Applied (LCA)

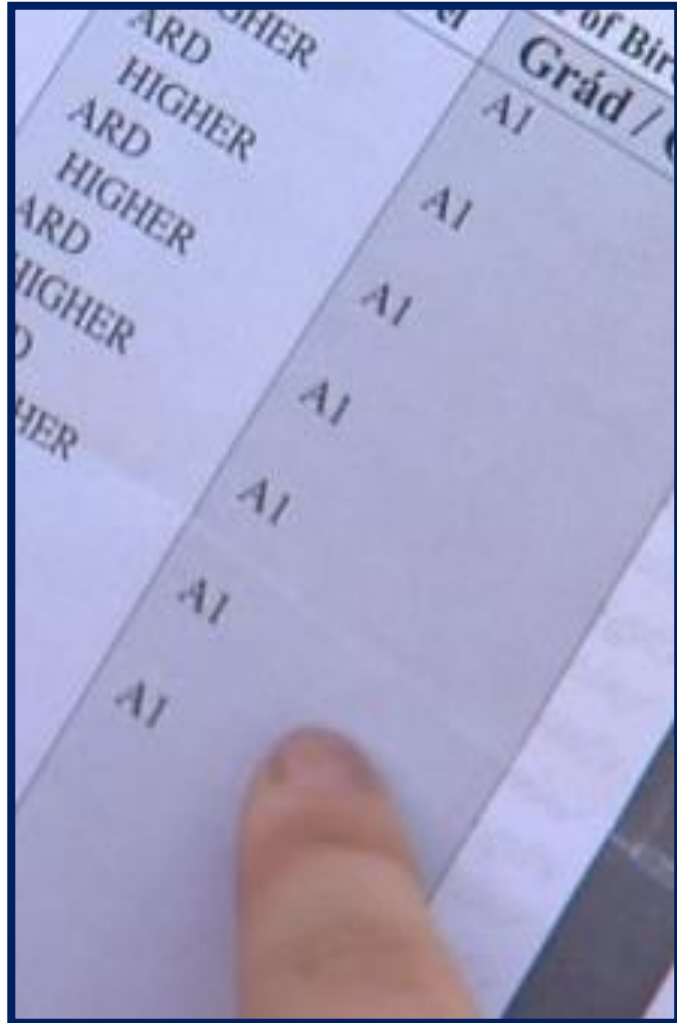
## Transition Year

- Transition Year Programme (TY)





# ESTABLISHED LEAVING CERTIFICATE



- ▶ Two-year programme
- ▶ Study 7 subjects
- ▶ 7 subjects divided up as follows:
  - ▶ Irish (unless exemption granted)
  - ▶ English
  - ▶ Maths
  - ▶ Four Options
  - ▶ See past examination papers on [examinations.ie](http://examinations.ie)

# OPTIONAL SUBJECTS LCE

Students will be asked to pick ANY FOUR from the following:

• HISTORY	• GEOGRAPHY	• FRENCH
• ITALIAN	• MUSIC	• ART
• PHYSICS	• CHEMISTRY	• BIOLOGY
• BUSINESS	• ACCOUNTING	• ECONOMICS
• ENGINEERING	• CONSTRUCTION	• DCG
• CLASSICAL STUDIES	• RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	• HOME ECONOMICS
• PHYSICAL EDUCATION	<i>(Applied Maths is available as an extra/8<sup>th</sup> subject)</i>	



# Subject Choice Do's!



Keep as many options as possible open for 3rd level...



Choose subjects that you are interested in and know you will enjoy. Enjoyment = hard work



Speak to teachers of the subjects you are considering to find out about the syllabus



Consider your strengths, aptitudes and interests



Find out if college courses you are interested in have specific requirements e.g. do you need a third language or a science subject?

# WEBSITES



[www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie)

Contains information on every third level course in Ireland and their minimum entry requirements.



[www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)

Provides information on CAO Application process.



[www.careersportal.ie](http://www.careersportal.ie)

Fantastic Careers website for subject choice, courses, careers and lots more!



[www.curriculumonline.ie](http://www.curriculumonline.ie)

Detailed Information on the curriculum and assessment of every Leaving Certificate subject.



[www.myfuturechoice.com](http://www.myfuturechoice.com)

Results from psychometric test



# WEBSITES Cont.

- ▶ All **Colleges** have excellent websites detailing all of their courses and entry requirements
- ▶ Apprenticeships are standard based education and training programmes. For a full list of apprenticeships and how they operate go to: [www.apprenticeships.ie](http://www.apprenticeships.ie) / [www.solas.ie](http://www.solas.ie)
- ▶ Students can register with [www.publicjobs.ie](http://www.publicjobs.ie) information on jobs in the public sector. E.g.: Gardai, civil service.
- ▶ For universities in UK (Northern Ireland, Wales and England) see [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- ▶ For universities in Europe see [www.eunicas.ie](http://www.eunicas.ie)



# Future Career

- ▶ Your son/daughter have a wealth of talents and are capable of performing well and enjoying work in many different career areas.
- ▶ It is common for people nowadays to change career direction several times in a working life, as circumstances change, new skills are developed, and new opportunities arise.
- ▶ They should pick subjects that are the best fit for them right now!





# LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED

## OVERVIEW





# WHAT IS THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED?

- ▶ It is a distinct, self-contained two-year Leaving Certificate programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life
- ▶ It emphasises forms of achievement and excellence which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past



# CURRICULUM

<b>Vocational Preparation</b>	<b>Vocational Preparation &amp; Guidance</b> <b>English &amp; Communications</b>
<b>Vocational Education</b>	<b>Mathematical Applications</b> <b>Graphics and Construction/Engineering/Childcare – vocational specialism</b> <b>Office Admin and Customer Care- vocational specialism</b> <b>Hotel catering and tourism- elective module</b> <b>Arts Visual (Art, craft and design)- elective module</b> <b>Introduction to ICT</b>
<b>General Education</b>	<b>Arts Education- Music and Drama</b> <b>Social Education</b> <b>Languages- Gaeilge and German</b> <b>Leisure &amp; Recreation (PE)</b>
	<b>Career Guidance</b> <b>Tutorial</b>

# LCA at RATOATH COLLEGE

- ▶ Small class groups
- ▶ Three work experience blocks –(November, January & April)
- ▶ Very successful programme
- ▶ Cross curricular approach
- ▶ Attendance (90%)
- ▶ Early finish Wed
- ▶ Trips, workshops and speakers



# WHO WOULD BENEFIT MOST?

- ▶ Students who are not adequately catered for by other Leaving Certificate programmes
- ▶ Students who have not experienced success in the exam-driven nature of the Junior Cycle programme.



# ASSESSMENT

## ▶ 3 Modes:

- ▶ Satisfactory completion of Modules: 62 credits (31%)
- ▶ 7 Student tasks: 70 credits (35%)
- ▶ Final examinations: 68 credits (34%)
- ▶ **Total: 200 credits (100%)**

## ▶ Certificate awarded at three levels:

- ▶ Pass 60-69% (120 - 139 credits)
- ▶ Merit 70-84% (140 - 169 credits)
- ▶ Distinction 85-100% (170-200 credits)



# Achievements

- ▶ Class of 2023
- ▶ Distinction 100% of our students achieved a distinction.



# RATIONALE

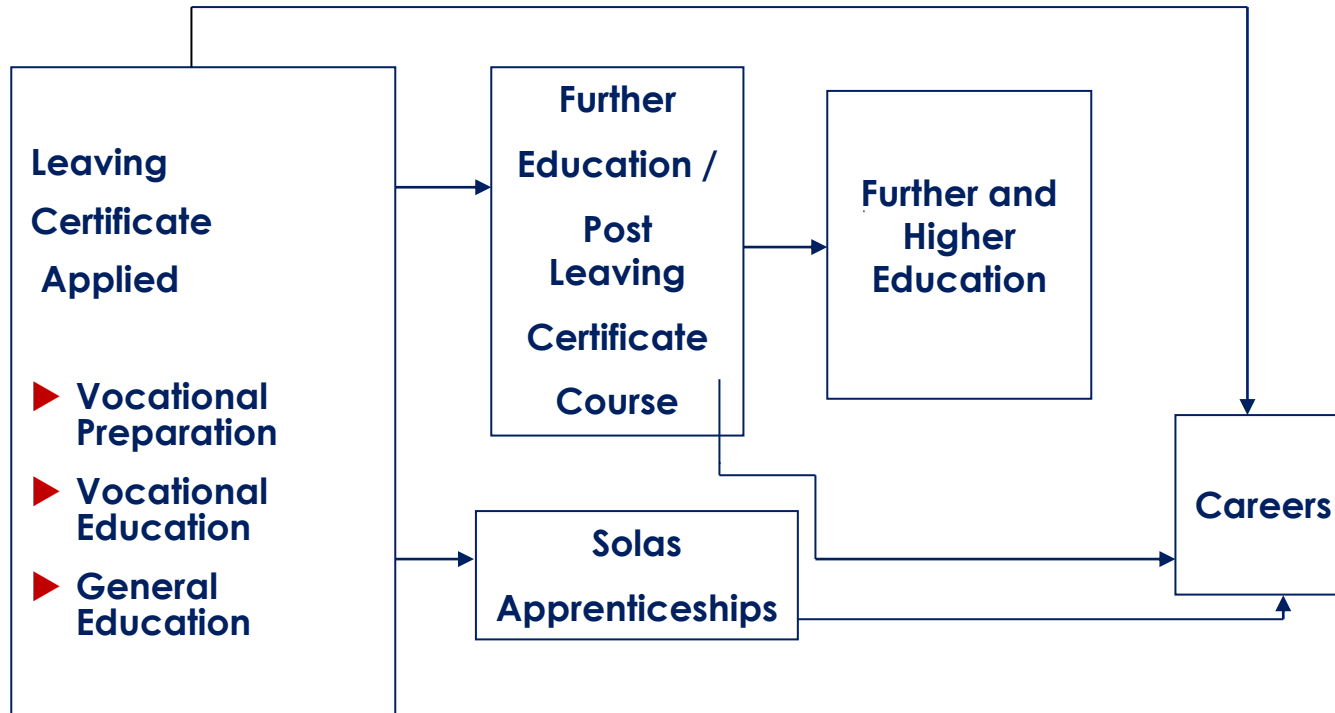
- ▶ Prepares students for adult and working life
- ▶ Recognises talents of all pupils
- ▶ Promotes communication and decision making skills
- ▶ Applies knowledge and skills to the solution of real problems





# Opening up New Options

## The Leaving Certificate Applied Route Map





**RATOATH  
COLLEGE**  
TY 2024/2025



# TRANSITION YEAR







# TY OVERVIEW



- ▶ A different year of learning.
- ▶ Education through experience of adult and working life.
- ▶ Provision of skills with an emphasis on self directed learning. Preparation for Senior Cycle
- ▶ To allow students access to a range of subjects.
- ▶ To develop students leadership skills.
- ▶ To develop links between students and the community through community work and fundraising.
- ▶ To engage students in a more active learning, experience learning in a more exciting way

# TO CHOOSE OR NOT TO CHOOSE ?

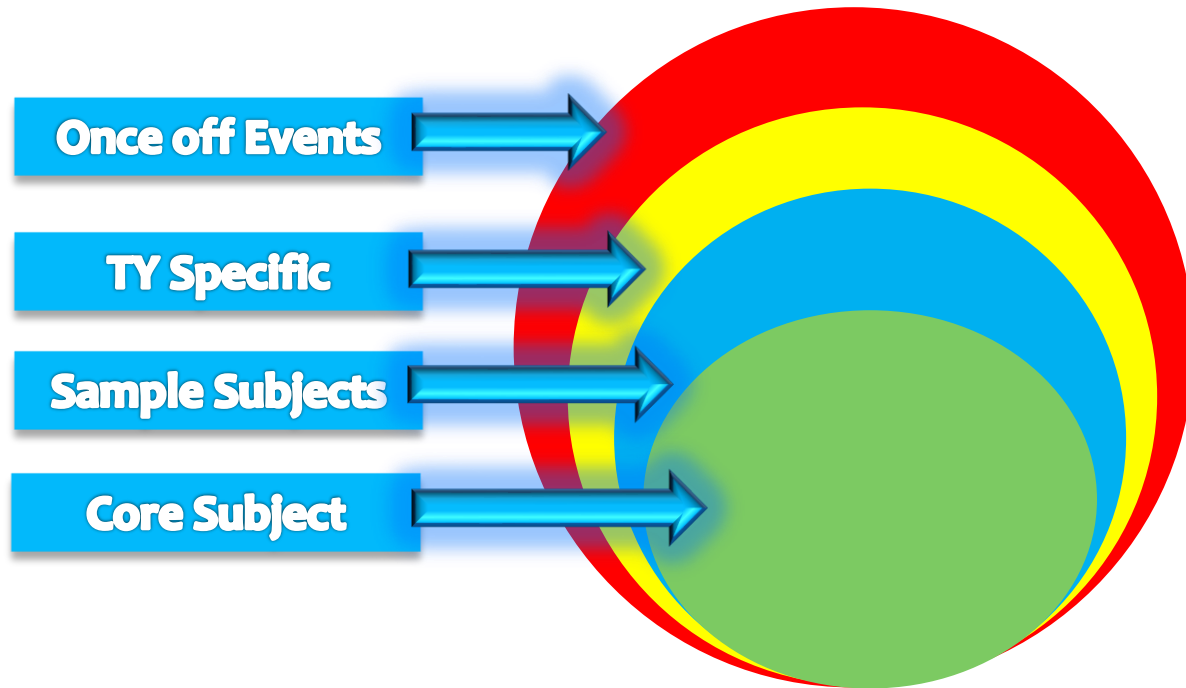


- ▶ Ratoath College is committed to providing an educationally sound and a challenging course.
- ▶ Students having completed TY in Ratoath College have gone on to achieve great success .



# OVERVIEW OF TY PROGRAMME

# POP



# TIMETABLE/MODULES



- ▶ Modular based- Rotating timetable- 2 sessions, LC Senior Cycle Subjects Covered. Theme!
- ▶ Core Subjects Included: English, Irish, Maths
- ▶ Plus: Technology, Science, Business, Art , Home Ec,
- ▶ Languages (European Studies), Music, History, Geography, Classics Studies, PE, Computers, **RC NEWS**
- ▶ Careers / World of Work Preparation.

## Pay it Forward (PIF)

- ✓ Community Involvement
- ✓ TY Buddy System
- ✓ Charity Work,
- ✓ Christmas Village
- ✓ Musical



## TY specific modules

- ▶ Chinese, PAM
- ▶ RC NEWS, Gaisce, Pay It Forward (PIF)



# Workshops

- ▶ Urban orienteering challenge
- ▶ Stand up comedy
- ▶ Drama
- ▶ HerMoves
- ▶ Drumming
- ▶ FAI
- ▶ Ukulele
- ▶ Flash mob



# Speakers

- ▶ Sports journalist
- ▶ Sustainable fashion
- ▶ First Aid
- ▶ Mini Company





# TRIPS & Significant Learning Experiences

## 1. Trips

- ▶ Various Trips during the year,
- ▶ Bonding Trip Lilliput
  - ▶ Urban challenge
  - ▶ Theatre trip
  - ▶ The Laughter Lounge

### Trips/

1. Bonding Trip
2. Gaeilge Causey Farm
3. Gaisce trip-Glendalough
4. Baysports
5. Belfast trip
6. Buddhist temple





# Work Experience

- ▶ Work Experience
- ▶ Placement 1 (1 week)
- ▶ Placement 2 (2 weeks)
- ▶ Placement 3 (1 week)
- ▶ Work Experience Diary, Module...
- ▶ Additional Placements, Procedures for specific placements, schools etc.
- ▶ GARDA VETTING
- ▶ 1 week of community care



**Irish  
Guide  
Dogs**  
for the blind



# POINTS SYSTEM CONTRACT

- ▶ Students taking ownership of behaviour - Mol an Óige
- ▶ Points awarded for participation in class, high quality standard of work etc.
- ▶ Prize draw and certificate for students who achieve high points at end of term.
- ▶ Dialann to be checked by parent/guardian on a daily basis, all notes signed.
- ▶ Trips.



TY POINTS OVERVIEW	Points
Great participation in class	3
Excellent standard of homework	2
Showed initiative in class	2
Great collaboration in group work	2
Commendation slip	3
Postcard	5
Homework not completed	-2 (can be given for each class that it is not submitted)
Key Assignment not completed	-5 (each day)
Not prepared for class	-2
Not participating in class/activities	-2
Poor attitude	-2
Persistent talking in class	-3
No iPad in Class	-3
Chewing gum in class	-3
Other	Points given may range from 5 to -5 at teachers discretion



# APPLICATION PROCESS

Talk for 3rd year students about TY Wednesday November 13th  
Senior cycle talk to parents/guardians of 3rd years Thursday Nov 14th 18.30

TY application form released to 3rd years on 3rd year Teams page  
Friday November 15th @ 13.30

TY application form closing date **Friday November 22nd @ 16.00**  
Parents/Guardians section

A paper copy is available.

Punctuality and attendance are checked and graded

Dialann is checked and graded. Dialann check during mocks. Dialanns collected Friday Jan 10th

TY Group task for applicants Friday November 29th all applicants will participate.

Students may be called to interview, these will be after the mocks

Number of places dependant on number of applicants







Final Advice to Students  
You get out what you put in!!



# FURTHER CONTACT DETAILS

**Any further questions, queries:**

Aisling Savage, TY & LCA Coordinator

[asavage.rth@lmetb.ie](mailto:asavage.rth@lmetb.ie)

Louise Canty, Guidance Counsellor

[lcanty.rth@lmetb.ie](mailto:lcanty.rth@lmetb.ie)

Áine Brooks, Guidance Counsellor

[abrooks.rth@lmetb.ie](mailto:abrooks.rth@lmetb.ie)

Tonight's presentation and further information:

[www.ratoathcollege.ie](http://www.ratoathcollege.ie)

**Míle Buíochas**

