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Subject Choice

Oct 3rd 2022

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s)

Subject choice in first year is a very important decision for your son/daughter. It not only influences the subjects that they will study for the Junior Certificate/Cycle but may also influence the subjects that they will choose to study for the Leaving Certificate. It is therefore very important that **you** are part of this decision and that you discuss it with your son/daughter.

It is important that

- your son/daughter picks subjects that they like and enjoy doing.
- your son/daughter picks subjects that will suit their ability and aptitude (the CAT4 results will help inform you in this decision)
- your son/daughter is not influenced by their friends' choices

CHOOSING A MODERN EUROPEAN LANGUAGE (French or German)

Careful consideration needs to be given to this decision as it may influence the 3rd Level College and types of courses/careers that your son/daughter may choose in the future. When making this decision, the following information is important

1. The Technology Universities including SETU Waterford, Carlow and Wexford **do not** require a Modern Language unless a student wishes to study a course with a language (such as Business with French.)
2. Many of the courses in the **NUI Universities** - University College Cork, NUI Galway, University College Dublin and Maynooth University - require students to pass Irish, English **AND** a Modern European Language to take courses in the arts, human science, law, social science, commerce, medicine and health sciences and some other degrees. Students are not required to pass a language for entry to engineering or agricultural science.

3. Apart from the NUI Colleges, some other 3rd Level Colleges may require that a student has studied a modern language. A complete list of Courses and Colleges that require a Modern Language can be found at
NUI Matriculation Regulations 2022 (section 4 on Minimum entry requirements)
4. A modern European language is **no longer a requirement** for application to cadetships in the defence forces. Applicants must meet the language requirement in both English and Irish
5. Garda entry requirements 2022 state that an applicant must have a proven proficiency in **one** language; either English **or** Irish.

The impact of all of the above for a student's course choices is that, while not choosing a language will not affect entry to the majority of third level institutions, **it will restrict choice** as they will be excluded from a range of courses in NUI universities.

Signed: _____

Tom Tynan,
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