

Coláiste Abbáin



053 924 0564 info@colaisteabbain.ie  
Adamstown, Enniscorthy. Co. Wexford

# Leaving Certificate Applied Admission Policy Coláiste Abbáin

## Mission Statement

*Coláiste Abbáin endeavours to provide quality education for all students in a caring, disciplined and respectful environment. We aim to prepare students for life and responsible citizenship and motivate them towards the achievement of their full potential.*

## **Background to the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme (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 Coláiste Abbáin**

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 maximum number of students in each LCA class will be set each year depending on allocation.

2021/2022 Academic Year; 16 students

## **LCA Personnel and Classes**

**LCA Coordinator:** Rita Breen

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

## **Student Selection**

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

- Liaison with the student'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 and the Principal/Deputy Principal. Preference will only be given to TY students over 3<sup>rd</sup> Year students, when they have scored the same or higher in the Interview and Application process.

- Academic Review: Third and TY Year Heads, class tutors and core subject teachers are consulted to assess the student's performance in the school up to Junior Cycle/Transition Year.
- Attendance, behaviour 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 may be removed from the LCA programme. The student will move into either TY or 5th year. A cert should be provided within a week of returning from an absence.
- Late applications for LCA or transfers into Coláiste Abbáin for LCA are dependent on availability of a place in the course. 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 Coláiste Abbáin in the LCA programme may be as follows (depends on the schools ability to offer the subjects):

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

- Career Guidance
- VPG comprising of Work Experience, Jobsearch/Enterprise and Community Work
- English and Communications

#### **Vocational Education:**

- Engineering OR Craft and Design
- Agriculture Horticulture OR Hair and Beauty
- Mathematical Applications

#### **General Education:**

- Introduction to ICT
- Social Education including Social Health
- Arts Education [Visual Art & Music]
- Leisure and Recreation

**Electives:**

- Office Administration LCA 1
- Hotel, Tourism and Catering LCA 2

**Other:**

- Pastoral Care
- Personal Reflection Task
- Practical Achievement Task [Year 2]

**Work Experience**

Students complete work experience in four (1 week) blocks. Students will be given the WWETB insurance form for this purpose and all relevant insurance requirements but be completed in advance of the placement. The VPG teacher aids coordination of the Work Experience Module and regularly contacts employers as to attendance and progress.

**Tasks**

The seven tasks completed by students are as follows:

**LCA 1 Tasks****January - Session 1**

**General Education Task** – Leisure and Recreation

**May - Session 2**

- Vocational Preparation Task - VPG and English and Communication
- Vocational Education Specialism Task - Hair and Beauty **OR** Agriculture Horticulture
- Personal Reflection Task Statement 1

**LCA 2 Tasks****January End of Session 3 - Year 2 Students**

- Practical Achievement Task – Logbook of Skill acquired outside school
- Contemporary Issue Task – Social Education

## Vocational Education Task

- Vocational Specialism – Craft and Design **OR** Engineering

## May End of Session 4

- Oral Examination English & Communication
- Oral Examination Languages – French (LCA 1) and Gaeilge (LCA 2)
- Practical Examinations for Hair and Beauty and Agriculture Horticulture
- Personal Reflection Task Year 2 Statement
- Final Examinations

## 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**:

	Credits	Percentage
<b>Satisfactory completion of modules</b>	62	31%
<b>7 student tasks</b>	70	35%
<b>Final examination</b>	68	34%

- 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%] 120-139 credits
- Merit [70-84%] 140-169 credits
- Distinction [85-100%] 170-200 credits

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

### **Further Study**

Upon successful completion of the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme students may apply to do a Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) course, and then continue to study in an Institute of Technology.

Ratified by the BOM 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

