

Website Address: [www.guidanceoffice.info](http://www.guidanceoffice.info)

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Dear Parent / Guardian,

Our present First Years are about to be given the opportunity to decide which subjects they should study for the Junior Certificate. As most parents are aware this may have consequences for future course, college and career choice. Issues can arise around the Modern Language and Science options. Choosing to drop a language and/or science at this early stage can limit the choices open to students during Senior Cycle.

Making a decision about subject choice is difficult for most students. They must consider whether they like the subject, how important or useful it might be to them in the future, whether they have an ability to perform well at the subject, whether the subject is required or recommended for their future career or course choice. They also have to listen to their teacher's advice as to the suitability of the subject for them. Parents and Guardians are also very influential.

All First Years will receive a presentation on subject before they are asked to make a decision. The presentation, a copy of which is on the school website, will show them how to investigate what courses require a Science or a Modern Language subject, and indeed the huge number of options available to them if they do not have a Science or Modern Language. I strongly advise that concerned parents should at least familiarise themselves with the Subject Requirements section on the Qualifax website. There are guidelines on how to do this on the Subject Choice section of the school website under "**Guidelines on how to use Qualifax to find the requirements around certain subjects.**"

Given the age of the student and the volatility in young people's choice of career, the best advice may be to keep their options open and keep on a Modern Language and Science *where possible*.

It might also be helpful to note that most students only see usefulness in terms of direct application to a field of employment. Students should be encouraged to appreciate the distinct contribution each subject can make to their social, emotional and intellectual development.

I would also strongly suggest that a student tries to stay at the Higher level in the core subjects if he/she feels they have the ability. Higher Grades will give students more choices when making decisions in Senior Cycle.

If you have any difficulties or concerns please contact me at the above email.

Yours Sincerely,

David Oates (Guidance Counsellor)

**Please note that the Final Choice Form has to be signed by Parents/  
Guardians before it will be processed.**