

First Year Subject Choices for the Academic Year

Core subjects: **Gaeilge, English, Mathematics, History, Geography, Science, PE, CSPE, Religious Education, Tutorial/Pastoral Care, SPHE.**

Each student will study **three (3) optional subjects.**

Please select one subject from each of the following blocks:

BLOCK 1	BLOCK 2	BLOCK 3
French or German or Spanish	Home Economics or Materials Technology (Wood) or Technology	Business Studies or Technical Graphics or Art, Craft & Design or Music

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are requested to complete the form below, and return to *Portmarnock Community School.*

Student's Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No: (Home) _____ Parent's Mobile: _____

Previous School: _____

Option Block 1: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Option Block 2: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Option Block 3: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Signature: Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

OPTION BLOCK 2

Home Economics *or* Materials Technology (Wood) *or* Technology

Home Economics

The course covers the five following areas:

- Food and Culinary Skills
- Consumer Studies
- Resource Management and Home Studies
- Social and Health Studies
- Textile Studies

In the Junior Cycle the course is examined in three distinct areas which are assessed as follows:

- Project Work which will be marked as a Classroom Based Assessment in second year
- A practical cookery examination in third year
- A written exam in third year

Materials Technology (Wood)

The educational philosophy of the course is designed for the development of qualities, which will emphasis the pupil's role in making and shaping their environment. The pupil will be encouraged to develop the ability to solve practical problems in an innovative and creative manner, through the application of appropriate knowledge and skills. Solutions should be devised and executed in an analytic and systematic manner throughout the mechanism of the design process. Some of the aims include developing a creative approach to problem solving in the design process through designing, making, evaluating and promoting initiative, inquiry and discrimination. The materials Technology Wood Examination for the Junior Certificate is composed of two parts:

Technology

Technology is a distinct form of creative activity where pupils interact with their environments, using appropriate materials and processes in response to needs, wants and opportunities. It integrates problem solving and practical skills in the production of useful artefacts and systems.

Pupils develop a wide variety of abilities required to produce a drawing or make an artefact, leading to a sense of competence and a feeling of personal empowerment. The acquisition of manipulative skills is an important component of this sense of competence.

In a rapidly changing global society, pupils need to appreciate that technological capability is necessary and relevant for aspects of living and working. This technological capability is developed in the pupils through:

- The understanding of appropriate concepts and processes
- Skills of design and realisations
- The ability to apply knowledge and skills by thinking and acting confidently, imaginatively, creatively and with sensitivity
- The ability to evaluate technological activities, artefacts and systems critically and constructively.

OPTION BLOCK 3

Business Studies *or* Technical Graphics *or* Art *or* Music

Business Studies

Junior Cycle Business Studies focuses on improving students' understanding of the business environment and on developing skills for life, work and further study through the three interconnected strands: Personal Finance, Enterprise and Our Economy.

The course is examined and assessed in the following ways:

Classroom based (group work) project in 2nd year

Classroom based (individual) oral presentation in 3rd year

1. Both of these assessments are awarded descriptors.
2. An assessment task completed in class in 3rd year worth 10%
3. An SEC written, common level, 2 hour paper worth 90%

Technical Graphics

Junior Certificate Technical Graphics is a technical drawing subject which aims predominately to develop student's drawing skills, and 2D and 3D spatial awareness. The subject is based on the idea of students constantly trying to solve problems through spatial reasoning. It also helps students to understand the importance of communicating information graphically. Technical Graphics leads directly to the newly formed subject of Design & Communication Graphics for Leaving Certificate. Technical Graphics along with its Leaving Certificate equivalent is of great benefit to students considering any type of engineering course, architecture or trade after school.

Art, Craft and Design

Junior cycle art aims to engage students in practical projects in the areas of art, craft and design. The course aims to build their sense of creativity, imagination, problem solving skills and technical art skills.

Art = visual art, painting, sculpture etc.

Craft = creating artefacts e.g. Pottery, printing, animation etc.

Design = Graphic design, logo development, poster, book covers etc.

Students will also engage in discussions and research about artists and their work, this research will be project based. There are two assessments one in second year and two in third year. For the assessment students will submit a visual art notebooks and completed pieces of work. These completed pieces of work will be based on themes supplied by the department. All projects must be completed during class time and homework for art will be in the form of research.

Music

Music in First Year will give students an opportunity to explore their relationship with music while learning skills that will serve them well for life. Students will be supported in their development of Key Skills, Wellbeing, and opportunities for meaningful assessment. Three important elements of performing, listening and composing will be presented to the students, and opportunities for collaboration with classmates will be an important element of the new Junior Cycle Music course, as they embark on this journey of creative endeavour.