



## Beaufort College Leaving Certified Applied (LCA) Information Pack 3rd Year Parents/Guardians

### **What is Leaving Certificate Applied?**

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a two-year Leaving Certificate available to students who wish to follow a practical Leaving Certificate programme with a vocational/job focus. It is especially designed for students who prefer to learn by doing through practical activities.

### **What is different about Leaving Certificate Applied?**

It is a practical Leaving Certificate programme which places emphasis on preparation for the world of work and life-long learning. Work experience is a significant component of the programme and students get to sample a range of jobs and get first-hand experience of the world of work. They have work experience for one day a week, attending school on the other four days per week over the two years. The assigned day can change year to year.

The learning experiences are active and practical where students apply their knowledge, skills and experience to real life situations in the school, in the workplace and in the wider community.

The programme provides a wealth of opportunities which enhance the self-esteem and confidence of students.

There is less emphasis on the final examinations as coursework is assessed / examined throughout the two years through a continuous assessment model. Students attain 'credits' (marks) as they progress through the programme. Students' work and skill development is assessed in different ways including interviews, written, oral and practical components. At four intervals during the programme students get a statement of their results from the State Examinations Commission. In this way they experience regular feedback on their success and achievement.

### **What are 'credits'?**

As students complete and submit their LCA coursework they are awarded 'credits'. There are 200 credits available in total which are awarded as follows:

Module = Subject / Task = Major Project / Final Examinations = LCA Exams in June alongside the LC Exams

	Credits	Percentage
Satisfactory completion of modules + 90% attendance	62 credits	31%
7 Students Tasks @ 10 credits each	70 credits	35%
Final Examinations (some subjects only)	68 credits	34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>200 credits</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **How is the Leaving Certificate Applied awarded?**

The Leaving Certificate Applied is awarded at three levels – based on the total credits a student has accumulated over the 2 years over all their subjects combined.

Award	Credits	Percentage
Pass	120 – 139	60 – 69%
Merit	140 - 169	70 – 84%
Distinction	170 - 2 00	85 – 100%

Students who do not receive the minimum of 120 credits, receive a ‘record of experience’ on their certificate.

### **What subjects are offered in Leaving Certificate Applied?**

At Beaufort College, all students take the following subjects:

- Vocational Preparation and Guidance – skills needed for starting work
- English and Communication – English for everyday living
- Mathematical Applications – Maths for everyday living • Information and Communication Technology – Basic ICT skills
- Arts Education - Art
- Social Education – Examining societal events and priorities
- Gaeilge Chumarsáideach – Conversational Irish & Irish culture
- Modern European Language – French or German – Conversational & Culture
- Leisure and Recreation - PE
- Elective Modules o Music in LCA1 – 5th year o Engineering in LCA2 – 6th year

In addition to the above students complete two specialist vocational courses. These Vocational Specialisms develop specific skills and knowledge relevant to a range of careers. Beaufort College offers two Vocational Specialism (based on resources available):

- Graphics and Construction Studies
- Hotel Catering and Tourism
- Information and Communication Technology

### **Can a student go to further education and training?**

Yes. The Leaving Certificate Applied is accepted for a wide range of Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses at QQI Level 5. It also provides access to most apprenticeships and other vocational training awards.

### **Can a student go to Higher Education?**

Graduates of Leaving Certificate Applied do not have direct access to Higher Education through the Central Applications Office (CAO). However, achieving an appropriate further education award e.g. QQI Level 5 may provide access for those who wish to apply to courses in Third Level colleges.

### **Who should consider Leaving Certificate Applied?**

- I wish to progress to Senior Cycle but understand the challenges of completing the traditional Leaving Certificate.
- I prefer learning by doing and completing practical coursework.
- I would be motivated by continuous assessment over the two years of work.
- I wish to gain work experience to help me with career choices.
- I wish to develop key life skills which will support me in my future career or studies.

For further information, contact the Programme Co-ordinator; Ms Michelle Brady, [mbrady.bft@lmetb.ie](mailto:mbrady.bft@lmetb.ie)

