
Leaving Certificate Applied Programme

Planning and Implementation for 2012-2013

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Leaving Certificate Applied Students, Rang Oisín engaged in learning activities

In April 2012, 24 Third Year students had succeeded in their interviews for our first Transition Year and the remainder had selected the Traditional Leaving Certificate course. It became clear that there was a small cohort of students for whom the Traditional Leaving Certificate Programme would be unsuitable. We invited a number of parents and students to explore the possibility of choosing Leaving Certificate Applied Programme. We invited them to the VEC Open Day for LCA and held an open evening for parents to explain exactly what was involved. By the end of the school year we had established a class group of 14 students.

The Leaving Certificate Applied programme is designed and developed on key principles:

- 🌀 Student Centred Curriculum
- 🌀 Personal And Social Development
- 🌀 Integration Across The Curriculum
- 🌀 Team Work
- 🌀 Basic Skills (Literacy)
- 🌀 Active Teaching/Learning Methodologies
- 🌀 Reflection
- 🌀 Links With The Community

With these principles in mind the 14 students and a small team of teachers set out to participate in and organise a fun filled course of activities and tasks to ensure the best possible results for students.

Within each subject area teachers are continuously thinking of different ways to teach the course as it is very practical. Students were very active throughout the year completing key assignments which all count towards their Leaving Certificate results. The year proved challenging at times for students, there were many deadlines to meet and several individual interviews with SEC examiners. Each interview followed the completion of an event organised by the students themselves. The first of these was the organisation of a Mini Sports Day for Second Year students. In this role LCA students experienced and improved on many skills and qualities which will stand to them throughout their future careers. They had full responsibility for the event which proved very successful.



Students were involved in the school's Market Day where they produced and sold their own products with one group making a 100% profit from their unique idea of recycling wood from the Construction class. The final task of the year was an international buffet which they organised and catered as a thank you to their class teachers.

The need for involvement in the LCA programme is constant, with students becoming excellent team workers and independent learners. Teachers enhance these processes by ensuring students have the resources and opportunities within all lessons to engage with each other and to share their own ideas and opinions. Classes are very active and enjoyable for all students and teachers.

A very important aspect of the programme is the Work Experience module. Each student attends work experience every week which gives students knowledge and experience of the working world, and also provides them with an understanding of what they need to achieve in their course to excel in to their chosen career.



Leaving Certificate Applied is attractive to some students for a number of reasons - the emphasis on short-term achievable goals, relevant curriculum content, a visible accreditation system, a more practical approach to learning, a variety of methods/tasks, smaller class size, work experience, less formal homework and a real sense of achievement as they experience success and grow in confidence.

Leadership is another very important skill that is developed in the programme. Students are encouraged to take leadership roles in the Student Council, the Sports Council, Big Brother Big Sister and to apply to be Senior Prefects. Coláiste Pobail Setanta responded to these needs by providing the optimum learning environment. We have also ensured that the programme is appropriate to the abilities and interests of students by offering a variety of teaching and learning methodologies, and facilitating parental support.



Differentiation is a core aspect of the programme, and student motivation was enhanced by regular positive feedback after key assignments, and the continuous summative assessment tools of the task reports and interviews ensures that students are extremely successful with their results to date.

LCA in 2013-14

Next year, both LCA classes will study Gaeilge which will facilitate cooperation and teamwork between Year One and Year Two. Fifth Year LCA Students (Rang Lir) will also participate in an Art Module, as there are several artistic students in the group.

Already a timetable has been planned to space out deadlines for tasks, key assignments and interview dates to alleviate the pressure a little on the groups. There are plans to take students out on more visits into the community to forge better links and to bring in more speakers in the different subjects.

Having attended the VEC LCA Display Exhibition for the past two years in order to allow our students to see the work of other LCA students, we would hope this year to have our students bring their own samples of work to showcase for visiting students.

The new school website will go live in July 2013 and we hope to get the LCA students involved in updating the site about their course by means of video and articles and blogs.