
Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

Completing the First Cycle

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LCVP students at work

The introduction of our first Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme in September 2011 introduced many new learning activities for the students. The course itself is designed with a more vocational aspect and prepares the students for the world of work and also provides them with the skills they need to get involved in Enterprise. Students engage in interview preparation, work experience, career investigations on the vocational side and learn the skills and qualities needed to become an entrepreneur on the enterprise side.

The biggest advantage of the LCVP programme for students is that their course work is assessed for the Leaving Certificate. The portfolio of coursework is worth 60% to students and is based on investigations, reports and recorded interviews throughout the two years. This provides teachers with the opportunity to introduce different teaching methodologies which engage the students in collaborative and independent learning. The course provides students with a different set of skills and qualities needed for when they begin their working lives. With this in mind the LCVP Department decided to begin an annual Market Day which has been a massive success over the last few years.

Market Day

The Market Day is held a week before the Christmas holidays and is a festive, upbeat event. The students develop, produce and market their own unique product in preparation for the day. On the

day Fifth year students set up their stalls in a decorative manner to entice customers and to gain a competitive edge to win over the judges.

Over the last number of years there have been many interesting, intriguing and excellent products on display. Some of these have included butter glue sticks, dream catchers, key rings, cosmetics, locker organisers, advice booklets just to name a few. The demand from other class groups, parents and teachers who all get the opportunity to attend throughout the day has been overwhelming with many groups selling out their stock.

There is a competitive edge to the Market Day as students are competing for some very attractive prizes and also to have the chance to compete in the Fingal Enterprise Awards which are held annually. These awards provide the opportunity for students to showcase their product to entrepreneurs and judges with the hope of gaining a place in the national finals held in Croke Park.

The Next Cycle of LCVP

In order to better prepare our students for job interviews, we hope to invite a broad spectrum of employers from the community to conduct mock interviews with the students. To this end, we intend to build further links with the community and send out information early in the year and follow up with phone calls.

LCVP students will contribute to the new school website, by providing updates on their work experience to date and on their plans for or results of Market Day.



Products for sale on Market Day