Drumshanbo Vocational School

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To Parents/Guardians of all First Years

Although our school remains closed for the rest of this term - we now have to plan ahead for the new school year, when, hopefully we will return to the classroom in September 2020. Our 1st years must now choose what optional subjects they want to take next year.

All students (except those with exemption from Irish) will take the following as their core subjects for examination in the Junior Cycle: **Irish, English, Maths, Science & Geography**

In addition, students will choose **four** subjects from the following optional subjects:

Home Economics, Music, Wood Technology, Engineering (new name for metalwork), Business Studies, Visual Art, Graphics (new name for Technical Graphics), History, French and Spanish.

If selecting a Modern European language, students must normally continue with the language they studied in First Year (French or Spanish).

I do appreciate that in the extraordinary circumstances this year, First Years did not get to experience the full cohort of optional subjects. We had hoped that they would get some time to sample the final rotation of subjects in the classroom for part of May. However, following today's announcement, that is not going to happen. This will make an informed decision more difficult for our students. In order to provide some guidance, I have attached on our web-site the powerpoint presentation on subject choice prepared by our Guidance Counsellor, Daithi Hughes. That would, in normal circumstances have been presented to you for discussion at a Parents' Information Evening. If you have any queries about the subjects or about the process of making the choice, please e-mail him at daithihughes@msletb.ie. You can also e-mail any of the subject teachers for further information.

In order to select the four optional subjects, you need to log on to VSware {using your username and log-in that you already have. When you log in on your child's page, click on the "subject options" on the left. This will bring you to where you will make the choice. The subjects are available in a dropdown menu and you can change selection as often as you wish up until the deadline of Wednesday, May 13ᵗʰ at 5:00pm.

You will be required to select your child's four desired subjects in order of preference and a further three reserve subjects, in case your child does not get his/her top four.

If you want a Modern European Language, that should be placed **first** (even though it might not be the favourite). This is because a Modern European Language is still a requirement for *some* college courses.

Student preferences will form the basis of how we formulate the subject options for next year. While not everybody will get all of their preferred subjects, we need to make sure that the way we formulate the options will not preclude any student from a particular career. This is not really a big issue at Junior Cert level, except for the provision of a Modern European Language which may be a prerequisite for some courses after the Leaving Cert.

Most students for Leaving Cert will do English, Irish, Maths and a Science subject and most tend to continue with a Modern European Language if they did it for the Junior Cert. For many, therefore, that only leaves two more exam subjects to choose at that stage from a wide variety of subjects.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued co-operation and patience with the on-line teaching and learning. We have a staff meeting this Wednesday and you'll be notified through this web-site on plans for First Year summer reports and assessment. We all very much look forward to seeing all our students back in school with us again in September.

Yours faithfully

Martin Fallon