

It has been well publicised in recent years that the Traditional Leaving Certificate does not accommodate all students. It is however very good for:

- Academically minded pupils
- Students who wish to pursue their studies at 3rd Level.
- Students who are capable of performing well in a once off exam at the end of 2 years.



Clearly, this does not meet the needs of all students and we recognise this fact here in the School and consequently we offer the LCA programme.

So, what is LCA?

It is the same as the Traditional Leaving Certificate in that it runs over a 2 year period.

As I have already said the Traditional Leaving Certificate does not meet the needs of every student because some students are gifted in areas that are not seen as Academic. Educational psychologist, Howard Gardner originally identified 7 major intelligences which we all have to one degree or another.

- Visual
- Spatial
- Intra & Inter personal
- Numeric
- Musical
- Bodily Kinaesthetic

Are not interested in pursuing a 3rd level qualification immediately after they leave second level .

Can not organise their study for a once off exam. (LCA combines assessment with learning.)

Now look at how LCA works.

200 credits (100%) is what a student would be graded on in the L.C.A. unlike the Traditional Leaving Certificate where grades in each subject are awarded points and these points will determine a student's College place or not!

To get these credits a student will work from day 1 of session 1 over the two years. These sessions are broken down from September to January and February to June in each year.

In each session a student will have to complete a module (subject course). To achieve his credits he must have 90% attendance and complete all of his Key assignments.

Key assignments are pieces of work which **MUST** be completed in each subject area. If not a student would get Zero credits for that module in that subject.

90% attendance in classes is not a flexible figure. If a student misses more than 1 day on average in a fortnight, without a medical note, he/she will get 0 credits for that entire Session.

The 7 Tasks are like projects that a student must complete. Once your son completes this project he will be interviewed by an external examiner.

Students overall Grade is a Distinction, Merit or Pass. Please note that the fail grade in LCA is 59% unlike the Traditional Leaving Certificate. However a student could actually have attained 66% of his/her final leaving certificate result before he has to sit his/her exams. This is 31% by completing the modules (Key Assignments & 90% Attendance) and 35% from task work.

The subjects studied are very different in many ways to the Traditional Leaving Certificate subjects. The subjects require problem solving and teamwork in a lot of cases. In others it can involve hard work and personal motivation while in many team work is essential.