**Admissions Policy**

This programme is designed for students for whom the traditional Leaving Certificate is unsuitable. The aims of this programme differs from that of the traditional Leaving Certificate and this is reflected very clearly in the delivery and assessment of the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme. In order to ensure suitability of students for the course and the course for students we have established the following selection process:

The Guidance Counsellor talks to all third years and Tys to inform them all of their choices for Senior Cycle including the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme.

During the 3rd year/TY parent evening the Guidance Counsellor and the LCA co-ordinator explains to parents about the programme.

Consultation with the Learning Support Department Student Support Team and 3rd/Ty Year Heads takes place where we look at possible students that would be suitable for the course.

An invitation to all third year and TY students that may be interested in the programme to write an application letter is announced. and complete application forms.

Upon receipt of these letters, an acknowledgement letter is issued with an interview date. Consultation meanwhile with the Learning Support department takes place again as well as with the Guidance Counsellor who will consult DATS results, record of behaviour and attendance and exams to date to make sure that applicants are suitable and will benefit for the course.

**All applicants are invited for an interview where they will be asked for the reasons as to why they would like to get into the programme and what they want to achieve from it etc. The interview panel consists of the co-ordinator and the Guidance Counsellor.**

Students who show genuine interest and that will benefit from the programme and that the programme suits them will be successful.

The following criteria will help ascertain suitability for the Programme:

* Level of interest indicated by the candidate at interview.
* Willingness to participate fully in all elements of the LCA Programme.
* Student’s satisfactory attendance record in school.
* Student’s behavioural record over the three years of Junior Cycle in Scoil Bhride/Pres Curralea/HCC, or in the case of an external candidate, the student’s previous school.
* An assessment of the student’s competence and value to be derived from participation in key elements of the LCA Programme.
* Assessment of the contribution the applicant can make to the LCA Programme.
* The applicant’s pastoral care needs as communicated by the Year Head,
* Guidance Counsellor and/or other professionals in the school.

The Interview will be conducted and marked according to the following Marking Scheme:

**CRITERIA                                                      MARKS**

Attendance                                                        20

Interview                                                            30

Behaviour Record                                          20

Personal Achievements to Date                10

Overall Suitability                                          20

**Total                                                                    100**

An Applicant must achieve an overall score of 70 or greater in order to be offered a Provisional Place on the Programme.

Students who show genuine interest and who will benefit from the programme and that the programme suits them will be successful.

Letters of offer are issued and students either reject or accept the offer.

Once a student accepts an offer onto the programme they together with their parents sign their LCA contract which shows their commitment to the programme.

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