**Ardscoil Rath Iomghain LCA**

We hope to introduce the Leaving Cert Applied Programme for the first time in 5th year in August 2022.

**Background to the LCA:**
The Leaving Certificate Applied is a distinct, self-contained two year programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life. The programme puts an emphasis on forms of achievement and excellence which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past. It is an innovative programme in the way students learn, in what they learn and in the way their achievements are assessed.

 The LCA is intended to meet the needs of those students who are not adequately catered for by other Leaving Certificate programmes or who choose not to opt for such programmes. The advantage of the Leaving Certificate Applied is that it focuses on the talents of each individual student and helps students apply what they learn in the real world. The two year programme consists of four half year blocks called sessions and achievements are credited in each of these sessions.

 **LCA in Ardscoil Rath Iomghain:**
The LCA will be introduced to recognise the talents of all students and to provide those not adequately catered for by the traditional leaving certificate with opportunities for development in terms of responsibility, self-esteem and self-knowledge.

**Student Selection**

Students are selected for the LCA based on their suitability for the programme.

The selection process involves:

* Year head, management and AEN coordinator identify students suited to the programme.
* Liaising with the students’ parents: An LCA information evening is provided for parents and students.
* Application form: A written application form must be completed in respect of each student intending to enrol on the LCA programme.
* A student's record regarding attendance, behaviour and work rate is taken into account when students are being selected for LCA. Based on the above the student’s suitability for the programme is assessed and if his/her application is deemed successful, the student will be offered a place on the programme for the following September.

**Work Experience:**

 Students will complete 4 weeks of work experience. The Programme Coordinator organises the Work Experience Module and regularly contacts employers as to attendance and progress.

**Assessment:**

The LCA programme uses a unique system of assessment.

* The students’ work is assessed over two years of the programme and they gain credit as they go along provided that they have a minimum of 90% attendance.
* Absences are only accepted with medical notes presented within a week of returning to school after absence.
* Practical work, interviews and terminal written papers are among the different forms of assessment used.
* Additionally, the student must complete seven Student Tasks that bring together the different learning experiences that the students have gained from the courses they have taken.
* As students complete the programme they collect credits – to a possible maximum of 200: A maximum of 62 credits [31%] are awarded for completing the required courses. 10 credits for each of the 7 student tasks completed [70 credits, 35%] 68 credits [34%] in total for the terminal examinations at the end of year two [or in the case of some subjects, e.g. Gaeilge, at the end of year one.]
* The Leaving Certificate Applied is awarded at three levels: Pass [60-69%] Merit [70-84%] Distinction [85-100%]

**Noncompletion of Programme:**

Students who want to leave LCA or who are not meeting requirements (attendance/behaviour) will have an interview with the LCA coordinator, the HSCL and the Deputy Principal/Principal to discuss options available to the student.

Parents/Guardians will be invited to attend a meeting with management to discuss the options for their son/daughter going forward.