



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Senior Cycle Redevelopment

Schools Information Note

September 2024, Issue 7



Senior Cycle Redevelopment Information and Updates

Introduction

This is the seventh edition in a series of Department of Education Senior Cycle Redevelopment information notes. These notes provide updates to school communities on the roll-out of the Senior Cycle Redevelopment programme. The Department has issued this note to all post-primary schools and requests that it be circulated to students, parents and staff in each school. The information note will also be available online and schools are welcome to provide links from their websites and other digital presences to it.

Main Updates

The Minister has officially launched two new Leaving Certificate subjects: Climate Action and Sustainable Development, and Drama, Film and Theatre Studies

New Transition Year module on road safety – “Road Safety Matters” – has launched.

Useful reading

Press releases

- Minister Foley launches rollout of new Senior Cycle subjects of Drama, Film and Theatre, and Climate Action and Sustainable Development. Read [here](#).
- Minister Foley announces schools participating in phase one rollout of new Leaving Certificate subjects. Read [here](#).



L-R Joanna Donnelly (Met Éireann), Dearbhla Walsh (Director), Cleona Ní Chruailaóí (Producer), Colm Bairéad (Director) Minister Norma Foley, Alisha Weir (Actor), Eimear Manning (National Youth Council), Patrick Kirwan. (Teacher, Ardscoil na Mara)

Launch of two new subjects

This month, Minister for Education Norma Foley launched the two new Senior Cycle subjects: Leaving Certificate Drama, Film and Theatre Studies; and Climate Action and Sustainable Development, at a launch event at the Irish Film Institute.



This launch marked an important moment in the Senior Cycle Redevelopment Programme and the Minister's vision for a Senior Cycle that provides young people with an opportunity to study a range of subjects that align with their talents and passions.



Launch of two new subjects



Minister Norma Foley pictured with students and teachers from Ramsgrange Community School.



Mohammad Naeem, and Alicia Joy O'Sullivan (outgoing UN Youth Delegates) pictured with Minister Foley and Joanna Donnelly (Met Éireann)

Launch of new subjects



Aura Matthey and Patrick Kirwan, both teachers from Phase One schools, address the crowd.



Senior Cycle Redevelopment Outreach

Podcast with the National Parents Council



The National Parents Council have launched their podcast series on Senior Cycle. In their first episode, they chat with Esther Doyle, from the Senior Cycle Redevelopment Programme Management Office, about Senior Cycle Redevelopment. You can listen [here](#).



The National Parents Council are members of the Senior Cycle Redevelopment Partners' Forum, a representative stakeholder engagement group which underpins the collaboration necessary to support implementation and, where appropriate, further developments under the programme.

Membership includes representatives of students, parents, teachers and school management, the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) and other relevant organisations.

You can read more about the Partners' Forum [here](#).

Launch of Road Safety Matters

This month, the Minister for Education launched the new Road Safety Matters transition year (TY) programme designed to help students become safer road users, developed in partnership with the Road Safety Authority and supported by An Garda Síochána. The programme has been developed to further support TY students and teachers, offering a step-by-step guide to prepare, educate and support students on their road safety journey. As part of the launch, the RSA has announced IPB Insurance as the official sponsor of the programme.

Pupils participating in the programme will learn the importance of sharing the road, developing the knowledge, skills, values and qualities to prepare them as road users and as safe drivers, if they decide to drive in the future. There are 10 modules in the programme including an overview session, learning to drive, components of a car, speed, alcohol, drugs, distractions, safety belts, vulnerable road users and an assessment.

The Road Safety Matters programme can be taught over a 10-week period or longer depending on a school's transition year timetable. Approximately 220 schools have expressed an interest in phase one of the programme, with over 110 schools registered for teacher training on the new module. Schools can register their interest [here](#).

The launch was kindly hosted by Marian College, Ballsbridge, with a special word of thanks to principal Oonagh McCaul.

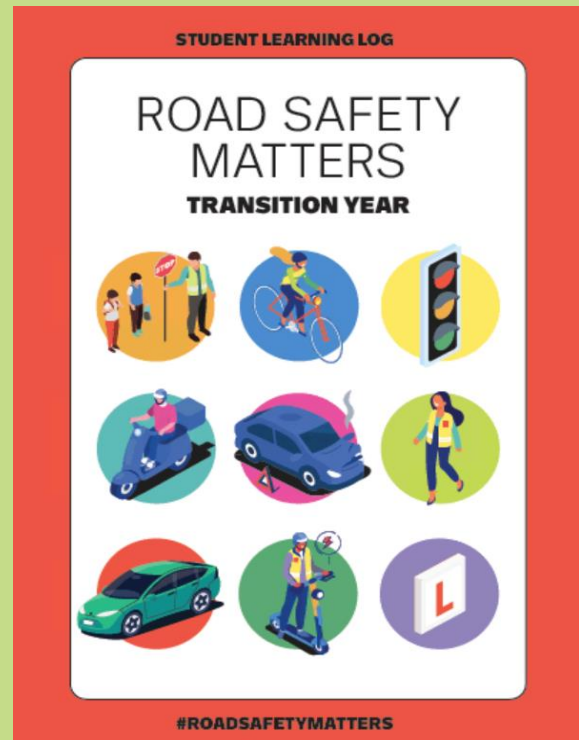
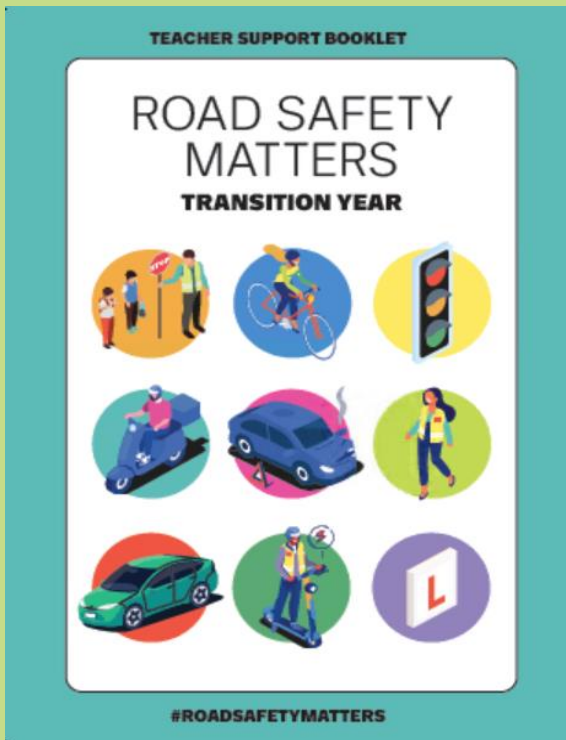


Students from **Coláiste Mhuire**, Mullingar pictured with Minister for Education Norma Foley TD, RSA Chief Executive Sam Waide, Assistant Commissioner An Garda Síochána Paula Hilman, Chairperson IPB Insurance Mr. John Hogan.

Launch of Road Safety Matters



Road Safety Matters



Student-made road safety video

Coláiste Mhuire, Mullingar, who attended the launch this month have made a road safety video that has gone viral. It follows two students from the school who are exchanging texts, leading to a road collision. It can be viewed [here](#).



Senior Cycle Redevelopment to date

In 2022, Minister Foley announced ambitious plans for a reimagined Senior Cycle of education for post-primary students, where the student is at the centre of their Senior Cycle experience.

Below is the high-level progress made to date on key Senior Cycle Redevelopment actions.

Key Senior Cycle Redevelopment Actions	Progress to date
Establish implementation and governance structures to ensure successful delivery of Senior Cycle Redevelopment	The Senior Cycle Redevelopment Programme Office, the Senior Cycle Redevelopment Implementation Group, the Senior Cycle Redevelopment Partners' Forum and Senior Cycle Redevelopment Programme Delivery Board have all been established.
Introduce Senior Cycle Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes	Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programme Statement and initial suite of L1 and L2 modules have been published.
Publish Transition Year Programme Statement, and work towards all students having the option of taking Transition Year.	The Transition Year Programme Statement has been published. Over the 2024/25 school year, all schools will have the opportunity to audit their current Transition Year offering and revise it where necessary in line with the Programme Statement.
All students in schools offering the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) will be able to access LVCP link modules without meeting subject criteria from 2022/23.	LCVP Programme Statement has been updated to make Link Modules available to all students since Sept 2022. LVCP Link Modules being redeveloped in Tranche 2. LCVP uptake has risen very significantly – from 12,840 in 2023 to 17,234 in 2024. This is very welcome and is likely a positive response to the improved flexibility introduced under Senior Cycle
Students following the LCA programme will be able to access LC Maths and Modern Foreign Languages from 2022/23.	LCA Programme Statement has been updated to ensure access to LCE Maths and Modern Foreign Languages since September 2022.

Senior Cycle Redevelopment to date continued

Key Senior Cycle Redevelopment Actions	Progress to date
SEC will certify the attainment of these learners reflecting both their LCA and LCE attainment, ideally in an integrated manner.	A small number of Leaving Certificate Applied students in 7 schools took subjects in the established Leaving Certificate in 2024. We expect to see this number grow in future years. These candidates received an Integrated Statement of Provisional Leaving Certificate Results through the Candidate Self Service Portal, which included both LCA and Leaving Certificate Established results, as well as an integrated certificate.
Deliver new and revised specifications, programmes and modules in annual blocks, incorporating Additional Assessment Components.	<p>All Tranche 1 subjects specifications have been published, and Tranche 2 and Tranche 3 subject development is in progress. The full schedule of subject specification revision can be found here.</p> <p>Two new subjects - Drama, Film and Theatre Studies, and Climate Action and Sustainable Development - the Transition Year Programme Statement, the Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programme Statement and initial modules, and the Senior Cycle SPHE specification have been published.</p>
Introduction of new subjects to broaden student choice	Specifications for new subjects Climate Action and Sustainable Development, and Drama, Film and Theatre Studies have been published. Phase One schools have been selected following an application process, with roll-out to take place in 2025.
NCCA to consider level of detail in curriculum documents to adequately support teachers.	Research completed and published. Template for technical form agreed for specification design of Tranche 1 to Tranche 5 subjects.
NCCA will assist in ensuring availability of appropriate and flexible progression routes into education, training, and work.	NCCA, in collaboration with SOLAS and ETBI, has developed an iVET TY module and are collating examples of FET taster courses being offered by FET providers. Work ongoing with SOLAS, ETBI and DFHERIS to progress further initiatives in this area.

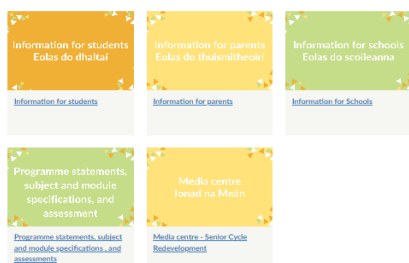
New Senior Cycle Redevelopment website

The webpage for Senior Cycle Redevelopment has been updated to make it more accessible and user-friendly. Work will continue to update the website in the coming weeks..

Visit gov.ie/seniorcycle

Senior Cycle Redevelopment Athfhorbairt na Sraithe Sinsearaí

Senior Cycle Redevelopment is the programme that is designed to change the current senior cycle in Ireland to bring 'equity and excellence for all' students. These changes include different approaches to assessment, updating and modernising subject specifications, and introducing new programme subjects.



Supports for teachers and school leaders

To support school leaders in leading Senior Cycle Redevelopment in their school, Oide is embarking upon the provision of a comprehensive suite of supports for school leaders over the coming years, starting this year. Details of all events will be communicated in advance.

As an initial support, a presentation has been created for school leaders, with two key purposes in mind.

- Firstly, it serves to provide an overview of new developments in senior cycle, enabling school leaders to familiarise themselves with curriculum and procedural changes in the system, effective from September 2024.
- Secondly, and importantly, it offers a framework for school leaders to immerse teachers in discussions about these system changes. The slide format is designed to encourage teachers to participate with agency and autonomy as they engage with information regarding senior cycle redevelopment.

This resource, available [here](#), focuses on the following:

- Rationale for redevelopment
- Tranche 1 subjects
- The introduction of two new subjects
- The Transition Year Programme Statement
- SPHE
- Senior Cycle Learning Programmes Level 1 and 2
- Oide supports for schools

This resource, which was issued to schools by Oide recently, aims to assist in preparing school leaders and teachers to reflect on practice in their school, and the impact of the new developments on their work and professional learning.

The publication of this resource is being followed by a supporting webinar, to be broadcast on **Thursday, 26th September 2024 at 11:30am – 12:30pm**. Please see [flyer](#).

Further details regarding this webinar, including how to register, can be found at this [link](#).



Oide

Tacú leis an bhFoghlaim
Ghairmiúil i measc Ceannairí
Scoile agus Múinteoirí

Supporting the Professional
Learning of School Leaders
and Teachers

Facilitating Teacher Engagement Webinar in Senior Cycle Redevelopment

Date: Thursday, 26th September 2024

Time: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Location: Online Webinar

A special webinar has been developed for school leaders with two key objectives:

- To provide an overview of new developments in the Senior Cycle, familiarising school leaders with curriculum and procedural changes effective from September 2024.
- To offer a framework for engaging teachers in meaningful discussions about these changes. The session is designed to encourage teacher participation, fostering agency and autonomy as they reflect on Senior Cycle redevelopment.

This webinar will prepare school leaders to reflect on their practices and assess the impact of these developments on their work and professional learning. It promotes collaborative discussion and thoughtful implementation of the Senior Cycle changes across schools.

Who should attend?

School leaders, along with relevant middle leaders if appropriate.

Registration Details:

Please register for the webinar by no later than Friday, 20th September 2024, 4:00 pm, using either the QR code below or the "[Book Now](#)" link here.



X@Oide_Leadership



oide.ie

Reminder: Sample Assessment Materials Timelines for Tranche 1

Autumn 2024

Guidelines to support the AACs will be available to schools. These will be utilised by Oide in their SCR Professional Learning programmes.

April 2025

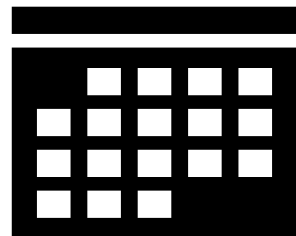
Four sample examination papers - two Higher Level and two Ordinary Level - for each subject in Tranche 1 will issue to schools. This is a total of 36 sample papers across the nine subjects– 72 papers in total when Irish Versions are included.

September 2025

Specifications in new and revised subjects introduced in schools. A sample brief for the AAC in each subject will in schools at the same time.

January 2026

A live brief for AACs for all subjects will be issued.



Further information on Senior Cycle Redevelopment
can be found at [gov.ie/seniorcycle](https://www.gov.ie/seniorcycle)

Queries in relation to this information note can be
directed to: scr_info@education.gov.ie



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