



An Roinn Oideachais  
Department of Education

# Senior Cycle Redevelopment

## Schools Information Note

May 2024, Issue 5



# Senior Cycle Redevelopment Information and Updates

## Introduction

This is the fifth 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 call for applications by schools to become a Phase One school for new Leaving Certificate subjects is now closed.

A schedule for all Tranches under Senior Cycle roll-out is now available

## Croke Park Conference for School Leaders

The report on Senior Cycle Redevelopment Conference for School Leaders, and videos and slides from the day are available to read [here](#) . Part A of the report summarises the presentations, breakout sessions, information sessions and panel discussions which took place, while Part B explores the main themes to emerge from the conference day, which was captured via delegate input to Mentimeter.



# Call for applications to become a Phase One School – now closed

## Thank you!

The call for applications by schools to become a Phase One school for new Leaving Certificate subjects is now closed. Thank you to all those that applied. Phase One schools have been selected and notified.

170 applications were received across both new subjects.

The two new Leaving Certificate subjects are Drama, Film and Theatre Studies, and Climate Action and Sustainable Development. Teaching and learning in these new subjects will commence in the 2025/26 school year. You can access the draft specifications [here](#).



# Last call: Have your say Background Paper and Brief for Tranche 2 subjects.

The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) is consulting on the Background Paper and Brief for [Tranche 2 subjects](#).

The purpose of the consultation is to gather feedback which will help inform the work of the development groups for these subjects.

Accounting  
Construction Studies  
Engineering  
English  
Geography  
LCVP Link Modules  
Physical Education

Find out [more](#)

The consultation will run until **17 May 2024**.

## Reminder: Tranche 2

Seven  
revised  
subjects and  
modules

Additional  
assessment  
component  
worth at least  
40%

Introduction  
into schools in  
2026

# Transition Year Programme Statement Update

The Transition Year Programme Statement has been accepted by NCCA Council and submitted to the Minister and the Department of Education for consideration and final approval. This work is ongoing.

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 which will be published shortly.

The Department's Inspectorate will support and provide advice to schools in this regard during the 2024/25 school year with Inspectorate engagements being reflective of this.

## Update on SPHE at Senior Cycle

A new SPHE curriculum for Senior Cycle has been approved by NCCA Council and submitted to the Minister and the Department of Education for consideration and approval.

This process is ongoing and a separate communication will issue in due course in this regard. It is intended the curriculum will be made available to schools shortly.

Schools will not be expected to implement this curriculum from September 2024/2025, unless they have the capacity to do so. This is to accommodate the necessary planning and preparatory work, including teacher education and classroom resources.

# Assessment Design and Development

## Additional Assessment Components

In addition to the final examination, each subject will have an Additional Assessment Component (AAC) worth at least 40% of the available marks. The State Examinations Commission (SEC) has been challenging itself to design and develop assessment components that;

- appropriately test students' skills, competencies and knowledge
- facilitates learning through, and by, doing
- can be integrated into teaching and learning
- seek to balance issues of validity and reliability with manageability for the student; the teacher; the school authority and the wider system.

The SEC aims to utilise a broad variety of assessment approaches underpinned by principles of fairness and equity in the design of AACs. Each AAC will be subject specific and aligned with the learning outcomes, and the SEC's recent work takes account of the feedback from the consultation on the draft specifications. The AACs should be understood as an integrated part of the teaching and learning of the subject; as a process that facilitates and supports good teaching and learning practices and enables students to fulfil the objectives of the subject specification rather than simply a product to be submitted to the SEC for marking.

# Guidelines on the AAC and Sample Assessment Materials

A schedule for the provision of Guidelines on the Additional Assessment Component specific to each subject; sample examination papers; as well as sample and live AAC Briefs for all of the Tranche 1 subjects is set out below.

Guidelines on the AAC specific to each subject, published by NCCA with input from SEC, will be available in November 2024. These Guidelines will be utilised by Oide in their programme of Teacher Professional Learning.

The SEC has doubled the number of sample examination papers it normally provides when a subject is introduced or revised with four papers being provided for each subject – two at each level.

The sample papers will be available in April 2025, in the school year prior to the commencement of the teaching of the new specifications - a full 18 months earlier than is normally the case.

The sample AAC brief will issue in all subjects at the beginning of 5<sup>th</sup> year – September 2025. This will be followed by the issue of the live brief in each subject 4 months later in January 2026.

# Sample Assessment Materials

## Timelines for Tranche 1

### November 2024

Additional Assessment Component (AAC) Guidelines will be in schools. These will be utilised by Oide in their SCR Professional Learning programmes

### April 2025

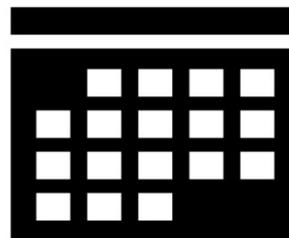
Four sample examination papers - two Higher Level and two Ordinary Level - for each subject in Tranche 1 will issue to schools. This is a total of 36 sample papers across the nine subjects – 72 papers in total when Irish versions are included.

### September 2025

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

### January 2026

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



## Supports for teachers and school leaders

Oide will provide a comprehensive suite of professional learning events to support senior cycle redevelopment in 2024/2025. This will include dedicated supports aimed at school leaders, full day professional learning experiences for all staff in schools, subject specific full-day cluster workshops for teachers, dedicated workshops aimed at TY coordinators and teachers of Level 1/Level 2 Learning programmes at senior cycle, plus a wide range of elective events and classroom materials and resources.

Oide's whole-school professional learning days, with a focus on Senior Cycle Redevelopment, will commence from **9 September** and continue throughout the school year. Schools will be booking in their dates for next year with Oide prior to the summer period.

Full-day school cluster subject specific workshop events will commence on **7 October** and continue throughout the school year. Schools have already been provided with their cluster workshops date for 2024/2025. Registration of teachers for these cluster workshops will commence immediately upon the opening of schools following the summer period.

Oide will contact schools in **late August** with details regarding this registration process. These cluster events will include dedicated senior cycle workshops in respect of the science subjects, and Business. Professional learning workshops in other Tranche 1 subjects will also be catered for during 2024/2025.

Some schools will be selected to introduce the new senior cycle subjects of Climate Action and Sustainability and Drama, Film and Theatre Studies into their schools from September 2025. Oide will work closely with each of these selected schools to support relevant teachers with appropriate levels of professional learning to ensure that these subjects get off to the best possible start in their respective schools.

Oide's website, [www.oide.ie](http://www.oide.ie) will be a repository for all supporting materials and resources for school leaders and teachers and will be populated with new materials on an ongoing basis during 2024/2025.

The Department also intends to co-ordinate workshops in **Autumn 2025**, to talk to school leaders about expand, or introducing, Transition Year programme.

# Supports for teachers and school leaders – some important dates for the diary

August  
2024

Oide will contact schools with details regarding registration for cluster workshops

9 September  
2024

Whole-school professional learning days, with a focus on Senior Cycle Redevelopment, will commence

7 October  
2024

Full-day school cluster subject specific workshop events will commence



# Schedule of subject and module tranches published

New and revised subject specifications, incorporating the revised assessment arrangements will be rolled out in tranches on an annual basis. By 2029, all subjects will be revised. This means that all those entering fifth year as a Leaving Certificate established student in 2029 will be following revised curricula and assessment arrangements in all subjects.

**Tranche 1**  
starts 2025

**Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Arabic, Latin, Ancient Greek, Business, Climate Action and Sustainable Development, Drama, Film and Theatre Studies**

**Tranche 2**  
starts 2026

**Accounting, Construction Studies, Engineering, English, Geography, LCVP Modules, Physical Education**

**Tranche 3**  
starts 2027

**Agricultural, Computer Science, Design and Communications Graphic, History, Home Economics, Mathematics, Music, Physics and Chemistry**

**Tranche 4**  
starts 2028

**Art, Economics, French, Gaeilge, German, Italian, Politics and Society, Spanish, Technology.**

**Tranche 5**  
starts 2029

**Applied Mathematics, Classical Studies, Japanese, Lithuanian, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, Religious Education, Russian.**

# Thanks again to all those who attended the Croke Park Conference for School Leaders



Read the report here: [gov](http://gov.ie) - Senior Cycle Redevelopment Engagement ([www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie))



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



**An Roinn Oideachais**  
Department of Education

Queries in relation to this information