

Languages Connect to More Options



Why study a foreign language at Leaving Certificate? A fact sheet for parents



'If somebody was considering whether or not they would learn a language, I would compare it to my own situation. Had I not, I wouldn't have had the massive opportunities in life that I have had.'

Ciarán MacSamhráin, LUAS engineer

Learning a language opens doors to a world beyond Leaving Certificate points.

To hear from industry representatives about the importance of language skills and why languages take you further visit

www.languagesconnect.ie 

Questions? Email hello@languagesconnect.ie

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Your child has reached a stage where you need to think about the next steps for their future. When you sit down together to discuss Leaving Certificate subjects, think about keeping future options open by choosing a language.

- Foreign languages are an **investment** for your child's future.
- Your child has already acquired language skills and knowledge, build on it and increase your child's proficiency by maintaining languages for the Leaving Certificate.
- **School is the best place to learn languages** because language learning supports and opportunities are readily available there.
- Languages are a useful, tangible life skill. **They help with your communication skills, your ability to cope using your resourcefulness and creativity.**
- In our global world, **communication skills** that allow people to interact with a diverse range of people will be needed no matter where one lives and works.
- By choosing languages your child can **develop the full range of their abilities for whichever career they choose.**
- **Learning a language enhances skills** such as problem-solving, teamwork and taking initiative which your child will develop over the coming years.
- Languages are an asset to those **working in a variety of areas, such as STEM and business.**
- **If you are planning to pursue PLC or further education courses, languages will enhance your chosen field.**
- **If you enter the workforce straight after school your language skills will be recognised as an advantage.**
- Choices now will impact future choices, for example foreign languages are **compulsory to access some 3rd level courses such as the ones offered by many NUI colleges.**
- **Do you speak a language other than English or Irish?** Support for maintaining these languages is available in different forms: courses in schools, Saturday schools, summer camps, online resources, etc.
- Keep the door open for languages - it's your child's future.