



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Senior Cycle Redevelopment

Schools Information Note

February 2024, Issue 3



Senior Cycle Redevelopment Information and Updates

Introduction

This is the third 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

All Tranche 1 subject draft specifications are now out for consultation following approval by the NCCA Council. Information can be found [online](#).

The inaugural Senior Cycle Redevelopment Conference will take place this month, 27 February 2024.

The State Examinations Commission has confirmed that Leaving Certificate Oral Examinations 2024 will be held during the Easter holidays. The SEC will give more advice on the timing of the Leaving Certificate Oral examinations in the future, following the wider evaluation process.

In late January, the Senior Cycle Redevelopment Partners' Forum held its fifth meeting to discuss the implementation of Senior Cycle Redevelopment.

Useful links and further reading

The National Strategic Framework for Lifelong Guidance and Strategic Action Plan was [published](#) in December.

Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD with members of Senior Cycle Redevelopment team at BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2024.

Congratulations to all who took part and thank you to everyone who engaged with the team at the stand.



Have your say

Tranche 1 subject draft specifications consultation is open



Draft specifications for Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Arabic, Latin, Ancient Greek, Business, Drama, Film and Theatre Studies, and Climate Action and Sustainable Development are out for consultation.

Full details can be found [online](#).

Tranche 2 and later tranches

Subject development groups for Tranche 2 subjects will be convened by the NCCA this month.

Later tranches will be announced shortly. The prioritisation of subjects in each of the tranches considers the age profile of the specifications currently in place, the numbers of students taking each subject, and whether subjects currently include assessment components other than a terminal written examination. All subjects will be revised as part of the redevelopment process.



Irish and English Paper 1 to continue at the end of sixth year

The plan to schedule Paper 1 in Irish and English at the end of fifth year as an interim measure was deferred last year.

The Senior Cycle Partners Forum subsequently discussed this proposal further which has helped to inform a revised approach. In light of the fact that subject development work for Tranche 2 subjects, which includes English, will commence at the end of February and the ongoing research work by the NCCA on the approach to developing revised Irish specifications; it has now been decided that until revised specifications are introduced in each subject Paper 1 in Irish and English will continue to be scheduled at the end of sixth year (in line with current arrangements).

As a result of the accelerated delivery of revised specifications on an annual basis from 2025, the revised specifications for English will be introduced for fifth years in 2026 with Irish in a subsequent tranche.

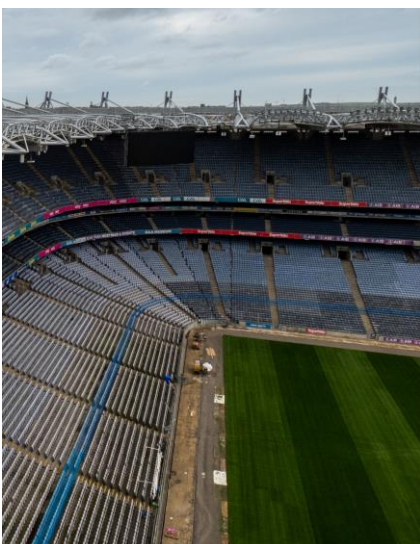
Transition Year Statement

A draft revised Transition Year Programme Statement has been published and a public consultation on the Statement concluded in October 2023.

Work is now underway to finalise the Programme Statement, pending its introduction to schools in 2024.



Senior Cycle Redevelopment Conference



The Senior Cycle Redevelopment Conference will take place at Croke Park this month, 27 February 2024. The Conference will empower school leaders by equipping them with the information they need to ensure their students, teachers and wider school community benefit from the roll-out of the Senior Cycle Redevelopment

Invitations to the Conference issued to school principals and deputy principals in January. The event is now sold out. If you did not receive an invite, and are interested in joining the waiting list, please contact scr_info@education.gov.ie

We look forward to meeting you all soon.

Coming soon...

Climate Action and Sustainable Development

Drama, Film and Theatre Studies

Climate Action and Sustainable Development, and Drama, Film and Theatre Studies, will be introduced to schools on a phased basis in 2025.

Schools will be invited to apply to become part of a network of schools rolling out these two new subjects, via an Expression of Interest.

The Expression of Interest will be launched in Spring 2024 and further details will be communicated to schools.



Senior Cycle Redevelopment Partners' Forum

The Senior Cycle Redevelopment Partners' Forum is a representative stakeholder engagement group established by the Minister. The Forum's membership includes representatives of students, parents, teachers, school leaders and school management bodies as well as the Childrens' rights Alliance and IBEC. It supports the implementation of the redevelopment programme through facilitating information exchange, and providing informed insights based on the experience and perspectives of its membership.

The Forum met for the fifth time on 18 January. It noted the introduction of Tranche 1 of new and revised Leaving Certificate subjects in schools in 2025, and the ongoing open consultation on the first six draft specifications.

The NCCA provided the forum with a detailed briefing on the design of the draft subject specifications for new and revised subjects. Additionally, the NCCA, along with the SEC, made a presentation on how the additional assessment components included in the new specifications represent a significant development, designed to complement terminal written examinations in the assessment of students' learning and key competencies at Senior Cycle. School leaders will have the opportunity to learn more on both these aspects at the upcoming Senior Cycle Conference.

The Forum will meet again in February 2024.

Senior Cycle Redevelopment Team at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2024



The Senior Cycle Redevelopment team at the Department of Education would like to thank all those who engaged with us at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2024, which took place on 11 – 13 January.

The team spoke to students, teachers and parents alike about the rollout of the programme, and the NCCA consultation currently taking place on the draft specifications of six of the revised subjects – and in particular the three science subjects of Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

Students, parents and teachers gave valuable feedback on various aspects of the programme, including observations on draft specifications, the importance of Teacher Professional Learning, resourcing, and timetabling or scheduling of the Additional Assessment Components as revised subjects are introduced.

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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