

Rannóg Pholasáí, Cháilíochtaí,
Churaclaim agus Mheasúnachta,
An Roinn Oideachais agus
Eolaíochta,
Bloc 2 (Bunurlár),
Sráid Maoilbhríde,
Baile Átha Cliath 1



Qualifications, Curriculum and
Assessment Policy Unit,
Department of Education and
Science,
Block 2 (Ground Floor),
Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1

Circular Letter 0056/2006

To: Management Authorities of Second-Level Schools

Leaving Certificate Technologies

1. The syllabuses for the three Leaving Certificate subjects of Engineering, Construction Studies and Technical Drawing have been revised by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). The names of the subjects have been changed as follows:
 - Engineering has become ***Engineering Technology***
 - Construction Studies has become ***Architectural Technology***
 - Technical Drawing has become ***Design and Communication Graphics***.

The NCCA has also developed a new syllabus at Leaving Certificate for ***Technology***. This will act as a follow-on to Leaving Certificate level for the subject Technology which is currently only available at Junior Certificate level. This means that there will be four technology-based subjects at Leaving Certificate level.

2. Two of the four syllabuses will be introduced into post-primary schools in September 2007. These will be *Design and Communication Graphics* and *Technology*. Both of these subjects will be examined for the first time by the State Examinations Commission (SEC) in June 2009. The syllabuses pertaining to these two subjects are available to download at www.education.ie
3. In September 2007, *Design and Communication Graphics* will replace Technical Drawing for students commencing the Leaving Certificate programme in all post-primary schools.
4. In September 2007, Leaving Certificate *Technology* will be introduced in a number of selected post-primary schools. The subject will be available to other schools in subsequent years as part of a phased implementation plan.
5. A **Technology Subjects Support Service (T4)** has been established to support schools in the implementation of the revised/new syllabuses. The National Coordinator, who was recently appointed to the service, will be supported by a team of Assistant National Coordinators, Regional Development Officers and Associate Trainers. This support service is being hosted by Galway Education Centre. The support service is currently planning the roll-out of a professional development programme for teachers which will commence in September 2006.
6. Grants will be made available to schools intending to introduce *Technology* and *Design and Communications Graphics* at Leaving Certificate level from 2007 to upgrade equipment and services. Details will be available from the Department's School Building Unit, Tullamore.

Expenditure should not be incurred on equipment and resourcing until further notice. This is because a single software supplier will be needed for the CAD elements of the programme, as this will form part of the assessment arrangements in the State Examinations. The Department will select the software through a central tendering process in keeping with public procurement requirements. Accordingly even where schools have received funds for equipment and facilities, they should not incur expenditure until further notice. The choice of hardware may be affected by the software selected. The Department will advise as to the appropriate software and hardware to be purchased. Enquiries regarding funding should be addressed to the School Building Section, Department of Education and Science, Government Offices, Portlaoise Road., Tullamore, Co. Offaly, phone number 057-9324441/9324444

In circumstances where room upgrades to facilitate the subjects are required, schools should apply for capital funding under the Summer Works Scheme. The 2007 Scheme has been advertised and details are available on the Departments website www.education.ie The closing date for receipt of applications is 29th September 2006.

It is envisaged that the implementation of Leaving Certificate Technology will be confined in the first phase to schools which have already been implementing the programme at Junior Cycle.

7. Computer Aided Design (CAD) is a significant component in the syllabus of each of the four revised/new technology-based subjects at Leaving Certificate level, particularly with regard to *Design and Communication Graphics*. The NCCA and the National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE) have undertaken research on the use of CAD in post-primary schools and the outcomes of this work are pending. When the research is complete, guidelines will issue to schools on how to progress with regard to the acquisition of appropriate ICT hardware and CAD software. Also, equipment specifications/lists will be updated accordingly.
8. Two surveys pertaining to technology education in post-primary schools were recently circulated to schools. The first is a survey that is being conducted by the **Technology Subjects Support Service** which aims to elicit information pertaining to the professional development needs of teachers in light of the implementation of the revised/new syllabuses. This information will assist the support service in planning for the delivery of a comprehensive programme of professional development. The second survey has been directed at those schools currently offering Junior Certificate Technology. This survey aims to elicit information regarding the current state of readiness of schools with regard to the introduction of Leaving Certificate Technology. Schools are asked, as a matter of priority, to return these surveys so that the implementation of the subjects can proceed as effectively as possible.
9. The implementation of a revised syllabus for an existing subject and/or the implementation of a new subject into the school curriculum require careful planning. Schools are encouraged to address the matter of syllabus implementation within the framework of their whole school planning process.
10. Please bring this circular to the notice of the teachers concerned.
11. Please also provide a copy of this circular to the appropriate representatives of parents and teachers for transmission to individual parents and teachers.

Margaret Kelly
Principal Officer

September 2006