



Gortnor Abbey

Secondary School

First Year Subject Choices

YOUR JUNIOR CYCLE JOURNEY AT GORTNOR ABBEY



Subjects

Core

English
Irish
Maths
RE
Science
History
Geography

Options

Art
Home Ec
Technology
Wood Technology
Business
Music
Graphics
German*
French*

*See language requirements

Wellbeing

CSPE
SPHE
PE
Learning to Learn



Exemptions to 3rd language requirements

- NUI colleges - Galway, Cork, Maynooth and Dublin have dropped the language requirement for science, engineering, agriculture and courses in nursing. Language is required for Medicine and Veterinary and specific courses.
- Maynooth University recently dropped the 3rd language requirement for Business, Accounting, Finance & Law Degrees
- Technological Universities do not need a language unless studying a language as part of a degree.

Third language requirements

Maynooth University

University of Galway

University College Cork

University College Dublin

Royal College of Surgeons Ireland

Some courses in DCU, UL and Trinity.

National College of Art & Design
(NCAD)

Shannon College of Hotel
Management

Defence Forces for certain courses in
the above establishments.

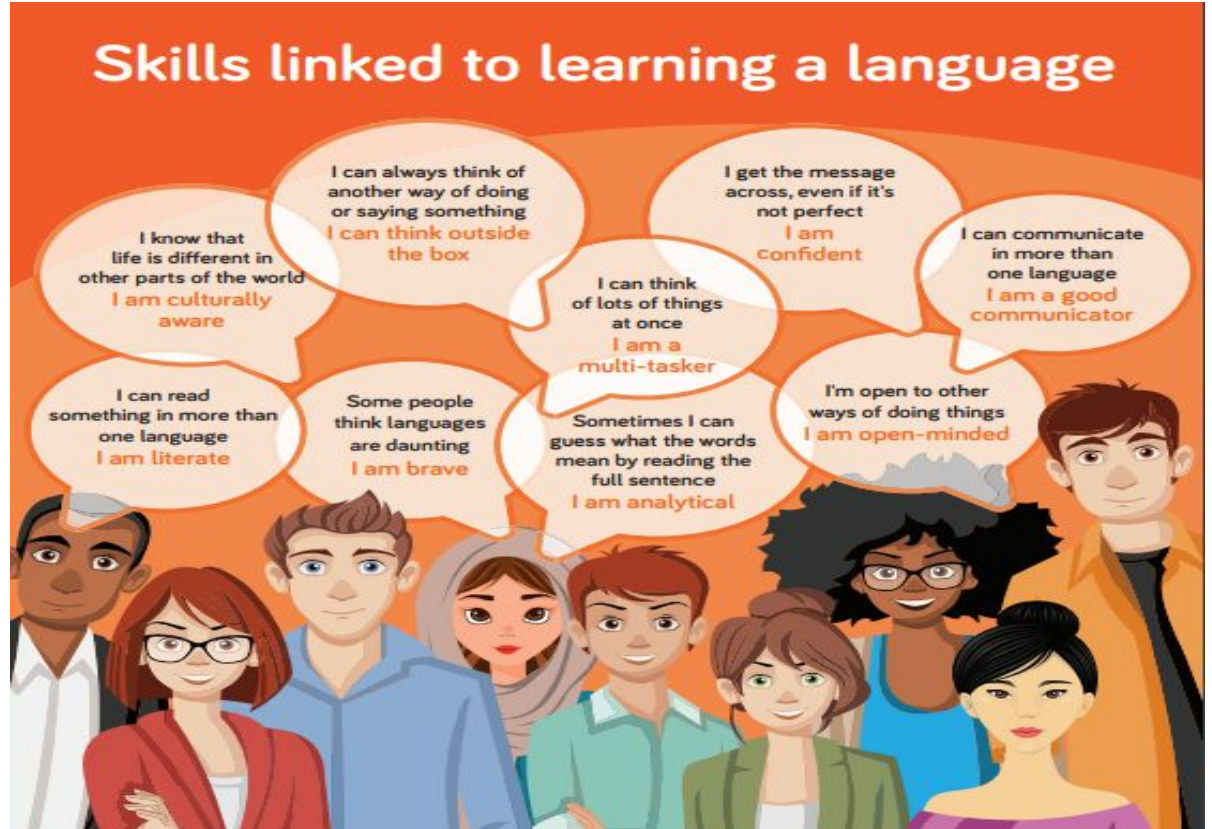
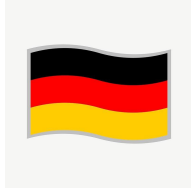
Modern Foreign Languages:

French



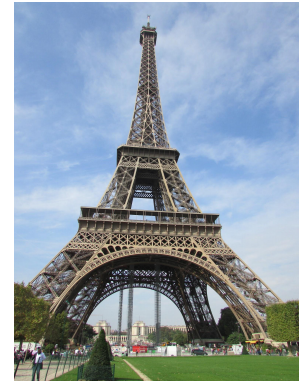
&

German



Why study a Modern Foreign Language

- Within the multicultural world we live in today, it is an advantage to have a third language.
- Some colleges and courses require a third language as an entry requirement.
- Some courses in college have an opportunity to study, travel and work abroad.
- To develop communication skills.
- To appreciate music, art, film and culture from other countries.
- Lots of opportunities to work in pairs and groups.



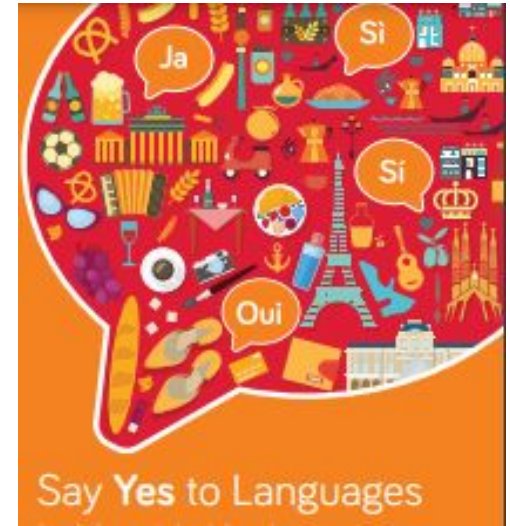
Why study a Modern Foreign Language

Students Will Learn to:

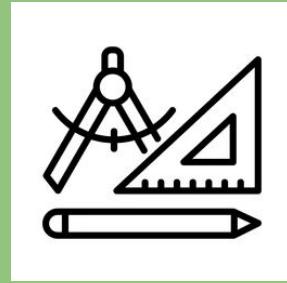
- Communicate effectively & confidently in target language
- Actively engage in language activities and tasks

Careers:

- Business
- Translator
- Journalism
- Tourism
- The European Union
- Teaching
- Fashion



Graphics



Graphics for Junior Cycle

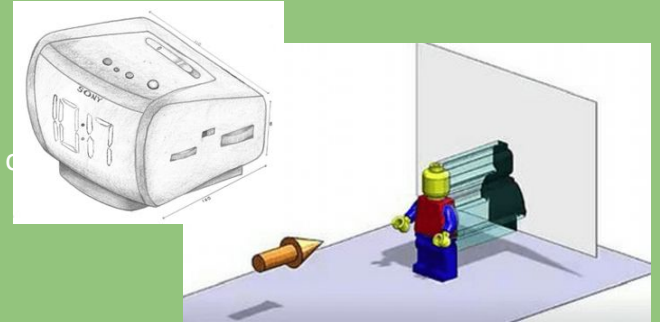
Description:

Graphics is one of the technology subjects offered at junior cycle. In Graphics you will learn how to represent 3-D objects on paper and on computer. You will develop problem solving and creative thinking skills through the solution of graphical problems

What will I learn in Graphics?

Some of the things you will learn include:

- How to produce drawings using drawing equipment, freehand sketches and computer
- How to read and interpret drawings and diagrams
- How graphics relate to the design and manufacture of products



Is Graphics useful in other subjects?

- Problem solving skills and geometry are very useful in Maths
- Graphics is used in all technology subjects
- Very useful for drawing in Art

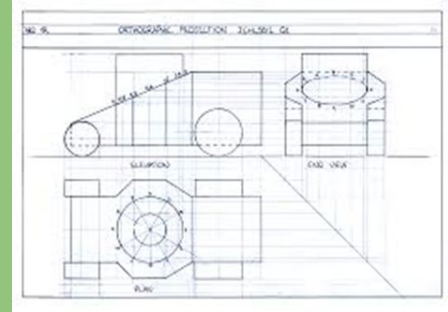
How will Graphics be useful to me?

Graphics helps you to think in a more logical and creative way. You will be able to communicate information using diagrams and sketches. You will have learned how to present information in a neat and organised fashion. This subject will be of use to you if you want to progress into career areas such as architecture, engineering or a design field.

Here at Gortnor Abbey:

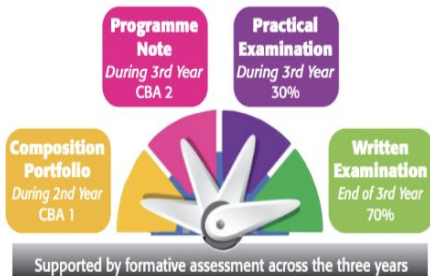
- Students enjoy learning how to produce neat 2D and 3D using the drawing equipment and sketching techniques.
- Students really enjoy using Computers to produce drawings of 3D objects.
- Classes are interactive and students are learning through activities.

The Junior cycle consists of one 2-hour exam worth 70% and a project worth 30%. The students will also complete two classroom-based assessments in 2nd and 3rd year.



Music

The Learning Journey



First Year

The Learning

- The learning in first year will be derived from the 36 learning outcomes from across the three interconnected strands and through the three integrated elements.
- Learning is supported by formative assessment.

Second Year

The Learning

- The learning across second year will again be derived from the 30 learning outcomes but will now build on learning from first year.
- Learning is supported by formative assessment.

Classroom Based Assessment 1

- **Composition Portfolio** is a collection of the students' musical ideas and creative expressions.
- The focus is on the developmental and progressive nature of the student exploring creative ideas.
- Can be in any musical style, written for any instrument, including voice, and as a solo or group.
- Presented in written, visual, digital, audio or any other format.
- Student Reflection is included on each of the final two pieces chosen for assessment purpose.

Subject Learning Assessment Review (SLAR)

- The results of CBA1 are reported using descriptors

Third Year

The Learning

- As the learning outcomes are for three years, teachers plan for learning building on the learning that took place in first and second year.
- Learning is supported by formative assessment.

Classroom Based Assessment 2

- Programme Note is an individual task and is intended to illuminate the content of the student's performance for their practical examination
It could include:
 - Brief introduction to the composers/songwriters
 - Description about the historical context
 - Interesting musical point to listen out for in each piece
 - Famous exponents of a tune or instrument
 - Student's role in a group performance

Subject Learning Assessment Review meeting

- The results of CBA2 are reported using descriptors

Practical Examination (SEC) worth 30%

- Three solo and/or group songs / pieces
- Can be presented on a combination of instruments
- Standard is based on three years class-based tuition
- Choice of unprepared test: aural memory or sight reading or improvisation.

Written Examination (SEC) worth 70%

- One paper at common level
- One and a half hour's duration
- Sample of the 36 learning outcomes will be examined

Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA)

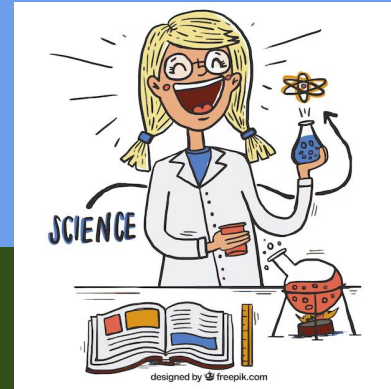
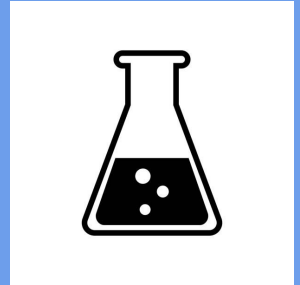
Results of the CBAs, and the overall SEC result are recorded on the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement.

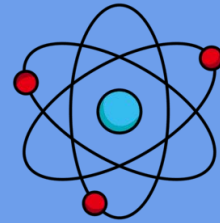
Science

Students will explore science through 4 strands: Physics, Biology, Chemistry and Earth and Space.

Students will explore science through theory as well as many practicals, giving students hands on experience with the subject. Science @ Gortnor Abbey is collaborative, giving students ample opportunities to engage with their fellow classmates

Science has many cross-curricular links with PE, Home-ec, Maths, Geography, Technology as well as many others allowing a student to better understand the world they live in





Why study Science?

Gain a better understanding of the world around you - How does this work? Why does this happen? What is the reason for this? We try to answer these questions in Science!

Lots of future courses and jobs require a science subject to be studied at school

Get hands-on practical experience with a subject

Lots of links to other subjects offered in the school allowing a student a better understanding of a topic studied in both subjects

Junior Cycle Wood Technology



Here in Gortnor Abbey:

- Students will develop a broad range of skills from problem solving through design, hand craft skills and communication of design through sketching.
- Students are encouraged to evaluate and self assess to allow them to learning from their own individual work
- All pictures shown below are examples of our students hard work

1st Year

- Understanding of Health and Safety
- Introduction to a range of hand tools
- Communication of personal designs through sketching
- Producing themed projects



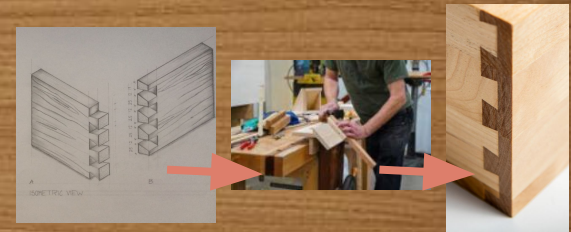
2nd Year

- Developing more intricate hand crafted skills and hand tools such as carving, intarsia, wood turning and more complex jointing methods
- Developing their own design skill and personalised projects



3rd Year

- Producing their own artefact for their Junior Cycle Project
- Design creation, detailed drawings and creating an artefact from start to finish
- A design folio highlighting the steps taken throughout to achieve the students finished project



Junior Cycle Wood Technology

Classroom Based Assessment

CBA 1: Wood Science in Our Environment

- Completed within a three-week period in second year.
- Completed by students either individually or in groups.
- Students investigate any are of wood science of their choice.
- Presented through any appropriate media

CBA 2: Student self-analysis and evaluation

- Completed within a three-week period in third year.
- Completed by students individually Students conduct an analysis of their coursework and skills to date in Wood Technology
- Students identify areas of strength and areas for improvement, with a view to informing their planning and decisions for future projects.
- Presented through any appropriate media

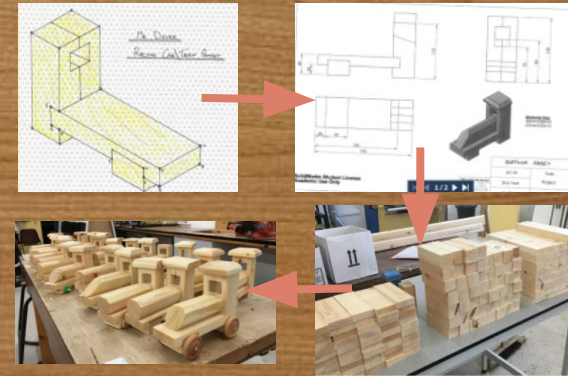
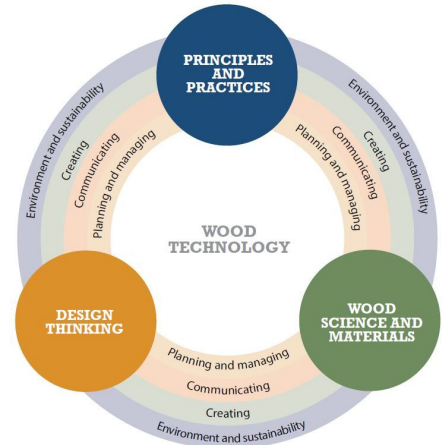
Final Assessments Weighting for Junior Certificate

Project 70%

Will be specified and marked by the State Examinations Commission.

Written examination 30%

Duration 1.5hrs. Set and marked by the State Examinations Commission.





Junior Cycle Applied Technology



A Students Learning Journey

1st Year

Students develop knowledge, understanding, values and skills through engagement with learning outcomes
Learning supported by formative assessment

2nd Year

Students develop knowledge, understanding, values and skills through engagement with learning outcomes
Learning supported by formative assessment
Classroom-Based Assessment 1
Exploring the application of controlled systems in a local context
Teachers engage in a Subject Learning and Assessment Review meeting 2

3rd Year

Students develop knowledge, understanding, values and skills through engagement with learning outcomes
Learning supported by formative assessment
Classroom-Based Assessment 2 Student self-analysis and evaluation
Teachers engage in a Subject Learning and Assessment Review meeting
SEC Examination
Project – 70%
Written Examination – 30%



1st Year Projects

1st Year Projects

1st Year Projects

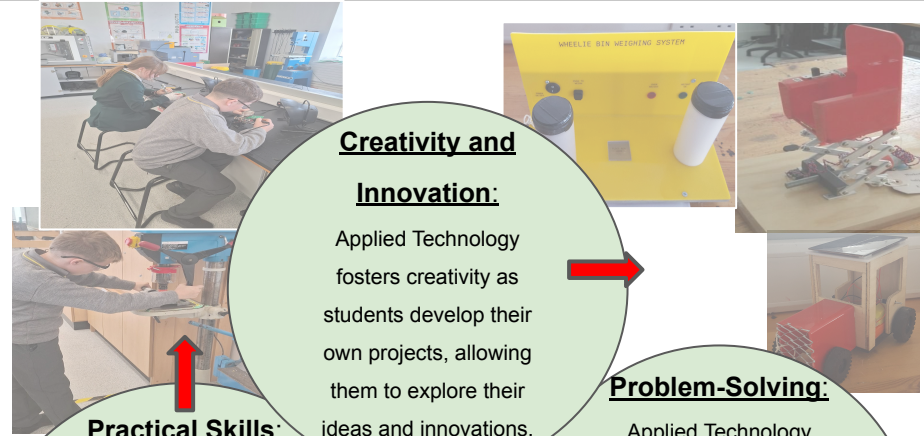
Applied Technology encourages students to develop the necessary conceptual understanding, disciplinary skills and subject knowledge to investigate and solve real-life problems. New technologies can impact on society and the environment. Students will analyse expected benefits and impacts as they make decisions about their design solutions, while considering the end user, the environmental impact and the functionality of their design



2nd Year Projects



2nd Year Projects



Creativity and Innovation:

Applied Technology fosters creativity as students develop their own projects, allowing them to explore their ideas and innovations.

Practical Skills:

Applied Technology provides students with hands-on experience in using various tools and technologies, which can be valuable in many fields.

Problem-Solving:

Applied Technology encourages critical thinking and problem-solving skills as students engage in projects that require planning, designing, and testing.

Key Skills

Collaboration and Teamwork:

Many projects are collaborative, promoting teamwork and communication skills. Also the hands-on nature of Applied Technology can increase student engagement and motivation, making learning more enjoyable





Sample 3rd Year Project

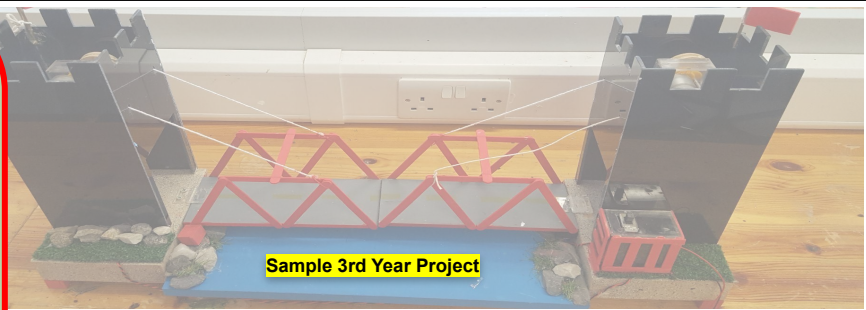
Classroom Based Assessment

CBA 1: Exploring the application of controlled systems in a local context.

- Completed within a three-week period in second year.
- Completed by students either individually or in groups.
- Students investigate an existing control system or a potential control system .
- Presented through any appropriate media




CBA 2: Student self-analysis and evaluation

- Completed within a three-week period in third year.
- Completed by students individually Students conduct an analysis of their coursework and skills to date in Applied Technology
- Students identify areas of strength and areas for improvement, with a view to informing their planning and decisions for the project.
- Presented through any appropriate media



Sample 3rd Year Project

Junior Cycle Applied Technology



Sample 3rd Year Project

Final Assessments Weighting for Examinations Externally Assessed

Project 70%
Will be specified and marked by the State Examinations Commission annually.

Written examination 30%
Duration 1.5hrs. Set and marked by the State Examinations Commission.

Possible Future Career Opportunities

- Biomedical Engineer
- Automation Engineer
- Electrical Engineer
- Electrician
- Engineer
- Mechanical Engineer
- Mechanic/Automotive Technician

Junior Cycle Visual Art

In Art,Craft,Design you will have the opportunity to create images and objects using a variety of tools, materials and special equipment.To understand Art, Craft,Design it is important to make things yourself so that you learn and understand by doing.

What will I learn in Art,Craft, Design?

In Art,Craft,Design you will:

- investigate by looking and recording your observations and experiences
- learn a variety of new crafts
- learn to work in 3-D e.g. construction, sculpture or clay work
- learn about the design process and how to use it to create new design objects and images
- learn to make links between your artwork and that of other artists, craft workers, architects and designers from different countries and historical periods.



Junior Cycle Visual Art

What is the Art,Craft,Design Junior Certificate exam like?

In Art,Craft,Design, you will be examined in two ways:

- course-work - in third year, you will do a school-based project, chosen from a list of themes.You will research your theme, do preparatory work and complete a painting or graphic design, a craft piece, and a 3-D piece.You will relate your work to other artist's work.
- an examination in which you will draw an object and a person. You take Art,Craft,Design at common level.When the time comesto decide,your teacher will help you choose the level thatsuits you best.

Home Economics

Aims to:

- develop students' understanding, skills and values to achieve optimal, healthy and sustainable living for every person
- develop practical food and health literacy skills so that students are enabled to adopt a healthy lifestyle and make informed decisions that positively impact their health and wellbeing nurture students' resourcefulness, innovation, adaptability, and competency as consumers
- develop students' creative design and textile skills develop students who are environmentally conscious and dedicated to a sustainable and responsible way of life



Home Economics



Supported by Ongoing Formative Assessment

Final Assessment (Year 3)

(Issued & marked by the
State Examinations Commission)

Practical Food Skills Examination

- Based on CBA 2, the Food Literacy Skills Brief
- Demonstrate culinary and creative food literacy skills in the implementation of the chosen brief
- 1 hr 30 mins + 30 mins preparation time
- 50% of final examination mark

Written Examination

- 1 hr 30 mins
- 50% of final examination mark

Reported on in JCPA

Business Studies - Think, Learn, Do!

Junior Cycle Business Studies focuses on improving student's understanding of the business environment through three interconnected strands:



Personal Finance: Consumer education, Budgeting, Saving & Borrowing, Insurance.

Enterprise: Entrepreneurship, Marketing, Business Accounts.

Our Economy: Demand & Supply, Government Revenue & Expenditure, The European Union, Sustainability.

Business Studies - Think, Learn, Do!

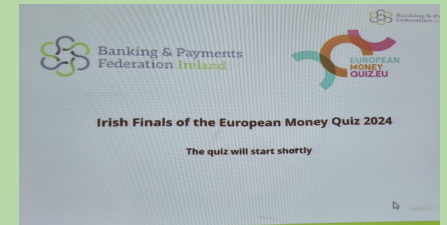


Have you ever wondered.....

- How can you get your money back if you have bought a faulty / damaged product?
- What makes a brand stand out from its competitors?
- How does new technology affect businesses?
- Why are concert tickets so expensive?



Business Studies student's know the answers!





EY Entrepreneur
Of The Year®

Why study Junior Cycle Business Studies?

- **Develop Essential Skills:** Business studies help students develop critical thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, and communication skills.
- **Foster Entrepreneurship:** It encourages students to think creatively and consider starting their own businesses.
- **Prepare for Further Studies:** A strong foundation in business can be beneficial for students who plan to pursue business-related courses at senior cycle or in higher education.
- **Understand the World of Work:** It provides insights into the world of work, including different business structures, careers, and job roles.

Future Careers:

- Advertising, Marketing & Public Relations
- Accounting
- Business Management & Human Resources
- Public Administration, Politics & EU
- Clerical & Administration
- Fashion & Beauty
- Banking & Financial Services
- Tourism & Hospitality
- Law & Legal



Local
Enterprise
Office





Gortnor Abbey
Secondary School