



Frequently Asked Questions



Why the change? Students need Key Skills taught through all subject areas to allow them to continue to learn and adapt to a changing world and jobs market.

Will students be equipped to take on all Leaving Cert subjects? Yes. They will be better equipped to learn and present their learning in exam conditions. The emphasis is on the development of the key skills of Managing information and thinking, Literacy, Numeracy, Managing myself, Staying well, Being creative, Working with others. As students develop an understanding of their subjects they will be developing lifelong skills at the same time. Students will be better equipped to take on and achieve leaving certificate success.

Will the classroom be different? Junior cycle education places students at the centre of the educational experience, enabling them to actively participate in their communities and in society, and to be resourceful and confident learners in all aspects and stages of their lives. Junior cycle is inclusive of all students and contributes to equality of opportunity, participation and outcome for all. Formative Assessment is at the heart of this change, creating a more adaptive and dynamic classroom experience.

Will there be class tests, assessments, Christmas and Summer Exams? Yes, these will continue as an integral element of students learning in Junior Cycle.

Will tests and assessments change in any way? Yes, there will be a greater emphasis on the ability of students to demonstrate the skills of, presentation, understanding and creativity in all subject areas. Please refer to the subjects for more information concerning assessment.

Where will I get further information on the subjects? There is subject information on all the subjects currently introduced on this information site. Alternatively, all Junior Cycle information is available from the National Council Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) at juniorcycle.ie

What Subjects are available in Junior Cycle.

Currently English, Irish, Languages, Science, Business and Art Craft and Design follow the new Junior Cycle and be assessed accordingly. All other subjects will continue to follow the Junior Certificate Program and be assessed as before.

The remaining subjects will come on line as follows:

2018 Maths, Home Economics, Music, Geography.

2021 Religion Technology Subjects, Classics.

Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) provide students with opportunities to present their learning and skills in ways not possible in a pen and paper examination. Over a specified period of time and with their teachers assistance, students will research and present or create pieces of work which will be assessed by their teacher. There will be one in 2nd and one in 3rd year.

**Exceptional
Above Expectation
In Line with Expectations
Yet to Meet Expectations**

Assessment Task which will follow the second CBA in third year. It is set by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, undertaken during normal class time and will be sent to the State

Examinations Commission for marking with the terminal exam. This Assessment Task will be worth 10% of the overall mark in the case of most subjects.

Other Learning Experiences. Students will have the opportunity to engage with a range of other learning experiences as part of their junior cycle programme. Four will be recognised and recorded on the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement. Examples Spots, Debating, Bake Off, Chess.

Reporting. New subject, except for Art, Craft and Design will have a written examination which will be set, administered and marked by the State Exam Commission. The exam will be two hours long and at common level except for English, Irish and Maths.

At the end of third year, students will sit the final examination in June worth 90% of the student grade. The remaining 10% will be awarded based on the Assessment Task.

Distinction	90 to 100 %
Higher Merit	75 to 89 %
Merit	55 to 74 %
Achieved	40 to 54 %
Partially Achieved	20 to 39 %
Not graded	0 to 19 %

How will the Junior Cycle be certified?

Students will receive a Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement. JCPA Provisional of Results the June terminal exam will be given as usual in September as usual. The JCPA a certificate with the results of the CBAs and Other Areas of Learning will be presented to students in November in place of the Junior Certificate.



Wellbeing. Junior Cycle has been designed with the wellbeing of students at its core. This area of learning includes, amongst others, Physical Education, Civic, Social and Political Education, Social, Personal and Health Education (including Relationship and Sexuality Education) and Guidance. It will comprise 300 hours of contact time recognising its equal importance. From 2020 it will comprise 400 hours of learning.

Student wellbeing is present when the students realise their abilities, take care of their physical wellbeing, can cope with the normal stresses of life, and have a sense of purpose and belonging to a wider community.



Junior Cycle Wellbeing Guidelines 2017