



RE: Junior Cycle Class Based Assessment Update for Current Third- and Second- Year Students (2020 – 2021)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope this correspondence finds you all well.

We would like to acknowledge the co-operation and positive engagement on the part of our students, to you as parents and guardians. The return to school has presented a range of challenges and changed routines for all our students and teachers and tutors have been consistent in their affirmation of the efforts of second and third years to adjust and adapt to these changes positively. We want to take this opportunity to thank all parents/guardians for their continued support of school policies and new measures associated with our Covid-19 response planning:

- Wearing face masks
- Observing physical distancing
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

The weather is becoming colder now and we remind all parents that the school jacket is an integral part of the school uniform and it is the only jacket permissible in school. Students are encouraged to get outside during their breaks, for fresh air and the opportunity for a mask break so having scarves, so in the absence of rain - hats and gloves at the ready will mitigate against cooler temperatures.

NCCA Update Regarding CBA Completion for Third Year Students:

We are writing to share the schedule of pending Junior Cycle Class Based Assessments - which all third-year students will be involved in over the coming months. The requirement related to CBA completion for third years has been changed - *“In the exceptional circumstances arising from school closures, each student must complete only one CBA in most subjects rather than the usual two in each subject (and short courses)”* - NCCA.

Subject Departments in consultation with the Principal, have identified where a completed CBA 1 will answer the assessment requirement of that subject. Alternatively, a CBA will be scheduled for this academic year.

The NCCA have specified 5 subjects where a designated CBA must be completed:

- a) CBA 2 in Irish: Communicative Task
- b) CBA 1 in MFL (French/ German): Oral Communication
- c) CBA 2 in Music/Home Economics/ Visual Art: linked to final examination in each subject.

Please note that the suite of Technology Subjects (Materials Technology / Wood, Technical Graphics, Metalwork, Technology) and Religious Education will be examined as part of the former Junior Certificate Examination programme.

NEW JUNIOR CYCLE GRADING SYSTEM

The following table provides an explanation of the revised grading system for Junior Cycle subjects and CBAs. Both sets of grades are in use this year and this dual presentation will continue until 2021 when the last of the Junior Certificate examinations are terminated.

Third Year Students 2020-21	JUNIOR CYCLE SUBJECTS Award - % Equivalent		Class Based Assessment Descriptors
Higher and Ordinary Level options in Irish, English and Maths. Other subjects examined under New Junior Cycle schedule are undertaken at a common level.	Distinction	90-100	Exceptional
	Higher Merit	75-90	Above Expectations
	Merit	55-75	In Line with Expectations
	Achieved	40-55	Yet to meet Expectations
	Partially Achieved	20-40	
	Not Graded	0-20	

Second Year CBA 1 Schedule:

For the current cohort of second year students all Junior Cycle subjects (available as part of the curricular provision at Scoil Dara) and included in the schedule of Class Based Assessments 1 (CBA1). Assessment outcomes of CBAs will be reported to students and are subsequently recorded as part of the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement. CBAs are a compulsory element of the new Junior Cycle Programme, undertaken within normal class contact time, to a national timetable (issued by the NCCA) and are undertaken during a defined time frame.

For the 2020/21 cohort of second-year students Junior Cycle CBAs (CBA 1) are obligatory the following subjects:

English	Business Studies	Science	Modern Foreign Languages (French /German)	Visual Art
Geography	Maths	History	Home Economics	Music
Engineering	Applied Technology	Graphics	Wood Technology	Religious Education

*Gaeilge is scheduled for 2 CBAs in third year.

The second year CBA schedule has been agreed through consultation with each subject department commencing at the start of 2021. Subject teachers will discuss the schedule with class groups and guide them through the assessment process

Teachers will work to support all students towards success in their subject explaining CBA learning outcomes and expectations, planning time-lines for progress and completion with them and providing formative feedback regarding CBAs. We appreciate that home will play a significant part in assuring success. Parents can support their sons/daughters by ensuring they attend school during the completion and presentation period, encouraging them to engage fully with the completion process, checking in with them about their plans for CBAs and assignments and encouraging them to work to their best ability and meet the assigned deadlines.

We take this opportunity to wish all third year students the very best as they continue in their preparations for the for the successful completion of Junior Cycle assessments and with the approach of 2021 we send the same message of encouragement and support to our second year Classes.

School attendance and student engagement are fundamental to success in all coursework, projects, CBAs and in preparation for their examinations so we encourage all students to make the most of the facilitation and guidance available to them in school.

Sincerely and with kind regards,

D. Mc Cormack

C. O'Loughlin

C. Finlay

David Mc Cormack
Principal

Carolyn O'Loughlin
3rd Year Head

Caron Finlay
2nd Year Head

NCCA – National Council for Curriculum and Assessment

CBA- Class Based Assessment: A unit of learning at Junior Cycle

JCPA – Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement: Combined Accreditation of Junior Cycle State Examinations and School Based Assessment Reporting