

The Junior Cycle Programme



Junior Cycle places the student at the centre of the learning process. The new Junior Cycle is made up of subjects and short courses. There is a focus on literacy, numeracy and the development of eight key skills. Students will experience new approaches to assessment and reporting. The Junior Cycle will also incorporate a range of other learning experiences. Students will also engage in an area of learning entitled Wellbeing.

All students, will study new specifications in all subjects. Underpinning the new junior cycle are a set of eight principles, eight key skills and twenty four statements of learning. Students will encounter a rich educational experience. Students will have access to a varied curriculum, one that encourages the development of knowledge, skills and values.

Key Skills

Eight key skills permeate the entire curriculum. Through engaging with their range of subjects, students' key skills will evolve. Students will actively engage with learning; take greater ownership for their learning; use digital technology and be encouraged to problem solve and think both creatively and critically.



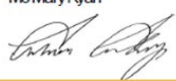
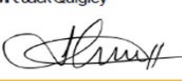



Assessment & Reporting

Junior cycle students will receive a new Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA). The JCPA will report on a number of areas, including:

1. State Examinations Commission (SEC) Grades
2. Classroom Based Assessments
3. Other Learning Experiences

Sample JCPA

 JUNIOR CYCLE PROFILE OF ACHIEVEMENT		2017
John Kelly		DOB: 21 June 2001
STATE CERTIFIED FINAL EXAMINATIONS Examination number: 450985		Classroom-Based Assessments - English
English (O)	Distinction	Oral Communication: Above expectations Collection of Texts: In line with expectations
Irish (O) ⁽²⁾	A	Classroom-Based Assessments - Short Courses
Mathematics (H)	B	Coding: In line with expectations
History (H)	C	Physical Education: Above expectations
Geography (H)	D	Artistic Performance: Exceptional
French (O) ⁽²⁾	C	Philosophy: In line with expectations
Business Studies (H)	B	
Science (H)	B	
C.S.P.E. (C)	A	
		Other Areas of Learning  <p>The school has flexibility to report on other learning experiences/events that the student has participated in outside the formal timetabled curriculum such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with co-curricular or extra-curricular activities such as a science fair, school's sporting activities or debating. Specific learning opportunities that do not form part of subjects or short courses, i.e; leadership training; activities relating to guidance; membership of school clubs or societies; membership of school's student council. Engagements that form part of the formal timetabled curriculum but not reported on in other sections of the JCPA i.e; engagement with a school's own religious education programme or with elements of the PE, SPHE curriculum and CSPE.
Principal	Year Head	Roll Number: 60090Q
Ms Mary Ryan	MR Jack Quigley	Anytown Secondary School Anytown, Co. Anytown V94HXW5
		 Anytown Secondary School
This JCPA recognises and records achievements in Junior Cycle.		

Classroom Based Assessments and Assessment Tasks

Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their learning and skills in ways not possible in a pen and paper examination, for example, their verbal communication and investigation skills. CBAs will be undertaken in all subjects and are facilitated by the classroom teacher. CBAs will be undertaken during a defined time period, within normal class time and to a national timetable. Students will complete one CBA in second year and one in third year. With the exception being in Irish, with students completing CBA1 & CBA2 in 3rd year.

Once the second CBA is completed students in 3rd year will complete a written Assessment Task. This task, set by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), is undertaken during normal class time and will be sent to the State Examinations Commission (SEC) for marking. This Assessment Task will be worth 10% of the overall mark in the case of most subjects.

CBAs will be reported on in the JCPA using the following descriptors:

- Exceptional
- Above Expectations
- In Line with Expectations
- Yet to Meet Expectations

Terminal Exams

At the end of third year, students will sit the final SEC examination in June. Exams will be of two hours duration or less.

Core subjects: English, Maths and Irish will be offered at higher and ordinary level. All other subjects will be studied at common level.

Junior Cycle	
Percentage	Grade Descriptor
≥ 90 to 100	Distinction
≥ 75 and < 90	Higher Merit
≥ 55 and < 75	Merit
≥ 40 and < 55	Achieved
≥ 20 and < 40	Partially Achieved
≥ 0 and < 20	Not Graded (NG)

Short Courses

A short course is designed for approximately 100 hours of student engagement across two or three years of the junior cycle. Short courses available in Goatstown ETSS currently include: Coding, , Artistic Performance, and Philosophy.

Other Learning Experiences

Students will have the opportunity to engage with a range of other learning experiences as part of their Junior Cycle programme and these can be recorded on the JCPA. These learning experiences could include student engagement in a science fair, a musical performance, a debating competition or being a member of school clubs.

Student Wellbeing

Student wellbeing is an integral part in educational success and overall happiness. As a result, Wellbeing has become a core part of the Junior Cycle programme. This area of learning includes, amongst others, physical education, CSPE (civic, social and political education), SPHE (social, personal and health education), ethical education and student enrichment.

For further information on the new Junior Cycle visit www.juniorcycle.ie