

### Junior Cycle: A broad education for your child

The new Junior Cycle aims to put your child at the centre of their learning process. It allows for new ways of learning and teaching and for a broader range of skills to be assessed. Underpinning the new Junior Cycle are a set of principles, key skills, and statements of learning. These will ensure that your child receives a rich educational experience that has both breadth and depth. Your child will have access to a varied curriculum of knowledge, skills, and values. Here at STN we offer a wide range of subjects that will complement your child's interests as they embark on their second level educational journey.

### What are CBAs and how do they work?

Classroom based assessments (CBA) provide students with opportunities to further demonstrate their learning and skills in ways not possible in a pen and paper examination, for example, their verbal communication and investigation skills. These may take the form of oral presentations, projects, recordings etc... CBAs will be undertaken in subjects and short courses and will be facilitated by the classroom teacher.

### When and where do they take place?

CBAs take place during a defined timeframe in normal class contact time. Each CBA will be timetabled and will be completed during a three-week period. Each student will complete 2 CBAs in each subject. CBA 1 in second year and CBA 2 in third year. Once CBA 2 is completed the students will fill out an Assessment Task. This will be completed during class time and will be submitted to the State Examinations Commission for marking. This Assessment Task will be worth 10% of the student's final grade. The CBA results will formally be reported on their JCPA form (Junior Certificate Profile of Achievement).

#### CBAs will be reported on using the following descriptors:

Exceptional

Above Expectations

In-line with Expectations

Yet to Meet Expectations.

## What is Junior Certificate Profile of Achievement?

The JCPA is a certificate that provides an overall view of your child's educational (academic and non-academic) achievements over a three-year timeframe. Included on the certificate will be the following:

- State Examination results
- CBA descriptors
- Other Areas of Learning
- Other Areas of Wellbeing

# Order of reporting for the Junior Cycle in Brief:

- CBA 1 2<sup>nd</sup> year (subject dependent)
- CBA 2 3<sup>rd</sup> year (subject dependent)
- Junior Certificate exams June
- Junior Cert Results Sept/Oct
- JCPA February after Junior Cycle Exam.

# **Reporting Results:**

State Examinations will be reported using the following grading system:

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	%

<sup>\*</sup>Christmas and Summer end of term reports will also be issued throughout this 3 year period.



# What are Other Areas of Learning (AOL)?

The aim of the OAL section of the JCPA is to take a holistic view of your child. This is a record of the extra achievements of your child over the three years of their Junior Cycle education. Each student will select their top 3 to 5 achievements that they feel best showcases their non-academic achievement while representing our school. These OALs can take many forms including - being a committed member of a school sporting team, committee, choir, chess team to producing beautiful pieces of Artwork etc... These OALs aim to celebrate all achievements of the student.

## What are Other Areas if Wellbeing (OAW)?

Through our substantive Wellbeing Programme - your child will follow a programme that provides them with various opportunities to enhance their physical, mental, social, and emotional wellbeing. Through OAW each student can identify experiences where they excelled in these areas of wellbeing.

## For more information click on the following website:

https://www.jct.ie/publications/publications