



20th October 2020

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

As part of the national Junior Cycle reform students in second year will be required to complete Classroom Based Assessments in their subjects.

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. These assessments take place in class time and are assessed and graded by the subject teacher. To ensure equity and fairness, each subject department confers and discusses standards to expect for each grade. The result of the CBAs (one in second year and one in third year) will appear on your child's JCPA (Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement) which they will receive in autumn 2022. The grading system for CBAs is as follows: **Exceptional, Above Expectations, In Line with Expectations, Yet to Meet Expectations.**

When your child is in third year, they will complete a second CBA (CBA2). Based on this, they will complete an Assessment Task, which will be graded by the SEC (State Examinations Commission) and will form 10% of their overall grade in each subject. Therefore, to recap, results of CBAs appear on JCPA alongside written exam grades in all subjects, Other Areas of Learning (extra and co-curricular activities that your child took part in throughout their three years in Junior Cycle) and Wellbeing. They will also appear on school reports to be sent home at relevant times in second and third year.

I have included a CBA schedule for second years with this letter which outlines the timeframes in which each subject will undertake their CBA. **Therefore, attendance throughout these times is very important.** Of course, in the Covid-19 context, this is subject to change. If you have any questions in relation to any of the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Ellen Gill

Junior Cycle Coordinator

2nd Year CBAs 2020/2021

Subject	Duration	Description	Dates
English	3 Weeks	Oral Communication – Individual/Group presentation or performance.	8 th February – 5 th March
Science	3 Weeks	Extended Experimental Investigation – Students formulate a scientific hypothesis, plan and conduct an experiment to test it, analyse data, and reflect on the process.	6 th – 27 th January
Business	4 Weeks	Business in Action Group Project – Based on 3 options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprise in Action • Economics in Action • Finance in Action 	22 nd February – 26 th March
1. Spanish 2. French 3. German	3 Weeks	Oral Communication in the Target Language – Individual, pair or group communication using an interview/role-play/presentation or conversation in response to stimulus material.	1. 8 th – 26 th March 2. 12 th – 30 th April 3. 12 th – 30 th April
History	3 Weeks	The Past in my Place – Display which can be completed by a group/pair/individual.	12 th – 30 th April
Mathematics	3 Weeks	Mathematical Investigation – A student follows the problem-solving cycle to investigate a mathematical problem.	1 st – 19 th March
Music	2 Weeks	Composition Portfolio – Two pieces chosen from student’s portfolio.	1 st – 12 th February
Visual Art		From Process to Realisation – Students choose to work from one of a range of themes to develop their ideas and create a realised work.	2 nd November – 14 th May

Home-Economics	11 Weeks	Creative Textiles – An individual project where students produce evidence of the application of the design brief process to one of the following options: Make a creative textile item for an individual or the home or recycle a creative textile item for an individual or the home.	12 th October – 30 th November
Geography	3 Weeks	Geography in the News – Structured inquiry through a response to a recent geographical event(s). Response to a media source.	6 th – 27 th January
Wood Technology	2 Weeks	CBA1 – Wood Science in our Environment – Research based assignment based on Wood Science.	25 th January – 8 th February
Graphics	3 Weeks	CBA1 – Communicating through Sketching - Students will be asked to graphically communicate their ideas using two-dimensional and three-dimensional sketching techniques in response to a chosen stimulus theme.	12 th – 30 th April
Religion	3 Weeks	CBA1 – A Person of Commitment - This CBA is designed to facilitate students in undertaking an investigation into a person of personal interest to them who has made a positive impact on the world with a particular focus on exploring the values, worldview and/or belief that have influenced the person.	4 th – 22 nd January