

Principal
Mr. Brendan Daly

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20th October 2020

Junior Cycle Assessment – 2nd & 3rd Year

Dear Parent/Guardian,

From 2014, the new Junior Cycle was introduced on a phased basis into Irish schools. Current third year students are following the new subject specifications in English, Science, Gaelige, French, History, Geography, Maths, Business Studies, Home Economics and Visual Art. All other subjects studied by these students follow the pre 2014 Junior Certificate Syllabi. Current second year students are now studying all subjects under the new specifications.

1. New Junior Cycle - Significant Change

A significant change in the new Junior cycle is in the area of assessment. A dual approach to assessment has been adopted involving Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs), Assessment Tasks and final, externally assessed, exams which are state-certified. Two CBAs are completed by students in each exam subject. Following the completion of CBA2 students are required to complete an Assessment Task in the relevant subjects.

Each CBA is different as they vary from subject to subject. However they can cover a broad range of activities including oral presentations, written work of different types, practical or designing and making activities, artistic performances, scientific experiments, projects or other suitable tasks.

While the official CBAs are undertaken in second and third year, teachers will practise the skills needed for the CBA's throughout all three years of the Junior Cycle.

Final Examinations take place at the end of third year and are set and assessed by the SEC. Examinations are of no longer than two hours duration.

2. Second & Third Year Exams/Assessments 2020/2021

The following arrangements are in place in FCJ Secondary School for Second and Third Year Exams/Assessments in the current academic year:

Third Year

- In light of school closures from March 13th 2020 the NCCA have published revised arrangements for current 3rd year students regarding CBAs. Current 3rd year students must complete CBA2 in Home Economics, Art and Gaelige where relevant. All other subjects were given a choice regarding whether to submit CBA1 or CBA2. Deadlines were extended to facilitate completion of CBAs already commenced in the last academic year. These CBAs are currently underway with many already completed. No assessment tasks are required to be completed in the current academic year in any subject. The design of the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement for 2021 will be adjusted to take account of the revised arrangements for CBAs.

- All third year students are undertaking class based October exams from 19th – 23rd October. Individual subject teachers have notified students of arrangements. Results of these assessments will be reported to parents/guardians in November.
- Mock Examinations - February – dates to be confirmed.
- Results of all CBAs will be reported to parents via VShare and parents will receive notification of same in advance of release of results.

Second Year

- All second year students are undertaking class based October exams from 19th – 23rd October. Individual subject teachers have notified students of arrangements. Results of these assessments will be reported to parents/guardians in November.
- Classroom Based Assessments (CBA1) will follow the schedule as outlined in the enclosed document.
- Second year students will undertake class based January exams from 25th – 29th January 2021.
- Summer Assessment – dates to be confirmed.
- Results of all CBAs will be reported to parents via VShare and parents will receive notification of same in advance of release of results.

3. Other Areas of Learning

Students are encouraged to engage in school related activities outside of the classroom. In light of current COVID restrictions we are limited in this provision currently. In addition to the CBAs and formal Sate examinations, engagement in these other areas of learning can be reported on the students Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA). The JCPA will be issued to all students in the year following completion of the Junior Cycle.

Please find enclosed schedule for completion of CBAs 2020/2021 and the FCJ Policy Document relating to same. A hard copy of the policy document has been provided to all 2nd & 3rd year students which must be signed and returned to Ms. Osborne by Thursday 22nd October 2020.

A parents' information evening was scheduled to take place in early September. Due to Covid restrictions this meeting was cancelled. It will be replaced by a pre-recorded information session which will be accessed through the school website following the mid-term break. Details will be issued to parents once it is available.

It is imperative that students and parents/guardians note the dates of CBAs and assessments and ensure attendance within the set timetable. Students must take personal responsibility during any absence to keep up to date with work. We would appreciate that you support your son/daughter and the school in ensuring all deadlines are met as outlined.

Yours sincerely,

Brendan Daly
Principal

Úna Osborne
Deputy Principal

Founded by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus, in 1861

Companionship Justice Excellence Hope Dignity Gentleness