

*Principal*  
Mr. Brendan Daly

*Deputy Principals*  
Mr. Tomás Earls,  
Ms. Samantha Hughes &  
Ms. Una Osborne



**F.C.J. Secondary School  
Bunclody  
Enniscorthy  
Co. Wexford**

*Tel: 053 9377308*  
*School App: FCJ Bunclody*  
*Email: office@fcjbunclody.ie*  
*Web site: www.fcjbunclody.ie*

20<sup>th</sup> October 2021

## **Junior Cycle Assessment – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year & 3<sup>rd</sup> Year**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

From 2014, the new Junior Cycle was introduced on a phased basis into Irish schools. Current second and third year students are following the new subject specifications in all subjects. Current second year students are also following the SPHE short course specification.

### **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 2021/2022**

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 over the past two academic years the NCCA have published revised arrangements for current 3<sup>rd</sup> year students

- Classroom Based Assessments will follow the schedule as outlined in the enclosed document. Third year students will not be required to complete Assessment Tasks in 2021/2022.

- November exams – all students will undertake scheduled exams during the week beginning November 8<sup>th</sup> . A timetable will be available to students during the week of November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Mock Examinations February 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> as per school calendar.

## **Second Year**

- November exams – all students will undertake scheduled exams during the week beginning November 8<sup>th</sup> . A timetable will be available to students during the week of November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Classroom Based Assessments (CBA1) will follow the schedule as outlined in the enclosed document.

### **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 provisions 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 which will be issued to all students in the year following completion of the Junior Cycle.

Please find enclosed schedule for completion of CBAs and Assessment Tasks 2021/2022 and the FCJ Policy Document relating to same. The signed policy document must be returned to the school office by second year students by Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 (Blue copy only).

An online parents' information evening took place in early September. In light of requests from parents, who were unable to attend, a screencast of the presentation will be placed on the school website following the mid-term break.

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*

## **Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) & Assessment Tasks (ATs)**

The Junior Cycle spreads assessments throughout the three years of Junior Cycle giving students the opportunity to demonstrate their learning away from the exam hall.

All new courses incorporate two new elements to the assessment of students:

- Classroom Based Assessments
- Assessment Tasks

### **Classroom Based Assessments**

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.

Students will complete one CBA in second year and one CBA in third year. All CBAs are compulsory and they are all set at common level, regardless of subject.

The CBA results will be reported in the JCPA using the following descriptors:

- Exceptional
- Above Expectations
- In Line with Expectations
- Yet to meet Expectations
- Not reported (where a student does not complete a CBA)

The results of all CBAs will be reported on in the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA), which is issued in the school year following completion of the Junior Cycle programme.

### **Assessment Tasks**

The Assessment Task (AT) for each subject will be specified and published by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). It is a written task and will relate to the learning outcomes for the second CBA. Students must complete the second Classroom Based Assessment (CBA2) before completing the Assessment Task. The AT will be completed in class time under the supervision of the teacher in accordance with a timeframe and guidance from the NCCA. It is not marked by the class teacher, but is sent to the State Examinations Commission for marking as part of the state-certified examination. The written exam in June accounts for the remainder of the marks awarded in the subject. The value assigned to the Assessment Task will be included in the guidelines for each subject. These can be accessed at CurriculumOnline.ie.

Subject specific details of CBAs and ATs are provided by subject teachers on commencement of the relevant assessment period.

## Calendar 2021/2022

Both the Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) and Assessment Tasks (ATs) are undertaken by Junior Cycle students during set timeframes, within class contact time and to a national timetable.

Please find below details of CBA requirements for Junior Cycle students for the period 2021/2022.

### SECOND YEARS

Second Year 2021/2022 - CBA 1			
Subject	Title	Date begins	Date ends
Geography	Geography in the News	Mon. 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Fri. 3 <sup>rd</sup> December
Business Studies	Business in Action	Mon. 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Fri. 10 <sup>th</sup> December
Home Economics	Creative Textiles	Mon. 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Fri. 28 <sup>th</sup> January
History	The Past in My Place	Mon. 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Fri. 17 <sup>th</sup> December
Applied Technology	Exploring the Application of Controlled Systems in a Local Context	Thurs. 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Wed. 26 <sup>th</sup> January
RE	A Person of Commitment	Thurs. 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Wed. 26 <sup>th</sup> January
Art	From Process to Realisation	Mon. 10 <sup>th</sup> January	Fri. 8 <sup>th</sup> April
Science	Extended Experimental Investigation	Mon. 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Fri. 4 <sup>th</sup> March
Maths	Mathematical Investigation	Mon. 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Fri. 18 <sup>th</sup> March
Graphics	Communicating through Sketching	Mon. 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Fri. 18 <sup>th</sup> March
Wood Technology	Wood Science in our Environment	Mon. 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Fri. 8 <sup>th</sup> April
English	Oral Communication	Mon. 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> May
SPHE		Mon. 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> May
Spanish	Oral Communication	Mon. 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> April
French	Oral Communication	Mon. 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Fri. 13 <sup>th</sup> May

Music	Composition Portfolio	Mon. 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> May
-------	-----------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------

\*Junior Cycle Gaeilge CBA1 Language Portfolio is finalised and submitted in the first term of third year. Students will work on the portfolio pieces throughout 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

There is only one CBA in SPHE.

The above dates may alter slightly as a result of a class being lost, within the allocated window of completion, due to school closure eg. St Patricks Day, May Bank Holiday etc. Teachers will notify their students of any changes.

## **THIRD YEARS**

With regard to Junior Cycle, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) has published the revised arrangements for Classroom-Based Assessments for students entering third year in 2021.

Each student must complete a minimum of one CBA in each subject. CBA2 must be completed in Visual Art, Wood Technology, Applied Technology, Graphics, Home Ec. & Gaeilge.

Students taking the Junior Cycle final examinations in 2022 will not be required to complete Assessment Tasks for the relevant subjects.

The grade descriptor awarded for these subjects will be based on the examination paper/project only. Specific arrangements have been put in place for Visual Art, Home Economics, Wood Technology, Applied Technology and Graphics and are detailed in the relevant section.

Guidelines on Assessment and Reporting on Students' Learning – Junior Cycle 2022 can be accessed at [NCCA.ie](https://www.ncca.ie).

<b>Third Year - CBA 2 &amp; Assessment Task</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date begins</b>	<b>Date ends</b>
Art	Communicate & reflect	Mon. 30 <sup>th</sup> August	Fri. 19 <sup>th</sup> November
No Assessment Task in Art			
Wood Technology	Student Self Analysis & Evaluation	Mon. 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Fri. 8 <sup>th</sup> October
No Assessment Task required in 2021/2022			
Applied Technology	Student Self Analysis & Evaluation	Mon. 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Fri. 8 <sup>th</sup> October
No Assessment Task required in 2021/2022			
Graphics	Graphical Presentation Skills	Mon. 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Fri. 8 <sup>th</sup> October
No Assessment Task required in 2021/2022			
Gaeilge CBA2	Communication Task	Mon. 10 <sup>th</sup> January	Fri. 28 <sup>th</sup> January
No Assessment Task required in 2021/2022			
Home Economics	Food Literacy Skills Brief	Mon. 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Fri. 11 <sup>th</sup> March
No Assessment Task required in 2021/2022			

**October Mid Term Break** – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October

**Christmas Holidays** – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December (12 noon) – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January

**February Mid Term Break** – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February

**Easter Holidays** – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

**FCJ School Policy around Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) and Assessment Tasks (ATs)**

1. As CBAs are reported on in each student's Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) it is vital that students and parents/guardians note the dates of the CBAs and do their very best to ensure student's attendance within the national set timetable. Parents/guardians are encouraged to schedule essential appointments outside of school time where possible. Parents must be aware that teachers have to input results promptly and as a result there may be little leeway to give any form of extension.
2. FCJ realises that students may have to attend important extra-curricular school events during the CBA timeframes. In this instance students must take responsibility on themselves to catch up on any work missed due to such absences. It is the responsibility of the student to notify their teacher of such an absence in advance.
3. Students should note that while they will be allowed to attend important school extra-curricular activities during the CBAs, they must attend for their Assessment Tasks.
4. Where a student is absent, under exceptional circumstances, for the completion of all or part of the Assessment Task, FCJ will make arrangements to allow the student to complete the task as close as possible to the timeframe scheduled for completion. Such students can be expected to furnish the school with a doctor cert or other relevant documentation.
5. Only work that is the student's own can be accepted for assessment in the JCPA.

Could all 2<sup>nd</sup> year students please return the signed (blue copy) of this page to the school office by Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021. Please retain this copy for your own records.