

Junior Cycle: Information for Parents 2023/2024

Timeframe

- ▶ 2014 English – Examined 1st time 2017
- ▶ 2016 Science & Business Studies – Examined 1st time 2019
- ▶ 2017 Visual Art, Gaeilge & French/Spanish (MFL)
 - Examined 1st time 2022
- ▶ 2018 Geography, Mathematics, History, Music & Home Economics
 - Examined 1st time 2022
- ▶ 2019 Graphics, Wood Technology, Applied Technology & R.E.
 - Examined 1st time 2022

From 2022 onwards all subjects are examined under the new Junior Cycle



Junior Cycle Subjects

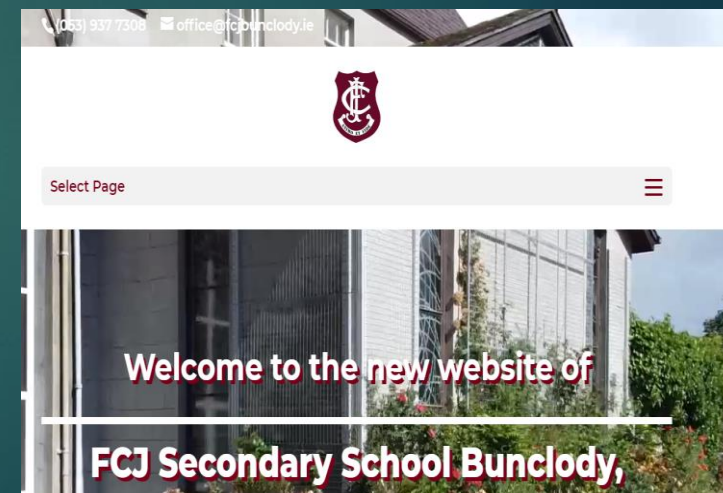
1st – 3rd Year – Core

- ▶ Irish
- ▶ English
- ▶ Maths
- ▶ French/Spanish (MFL)
- ▶ Science
- ▶ RE
- ▶ History
- ▶ Geography

Options

- ▶ Applied Technology
- ▶ Business Studies
- ▶ Graphics
- ▶ Home Economics
- ▶ Music
- ▶ Visual Art
- ▶ Wood Technology

Curriculumonline.ie
Fcjbunclody.ie



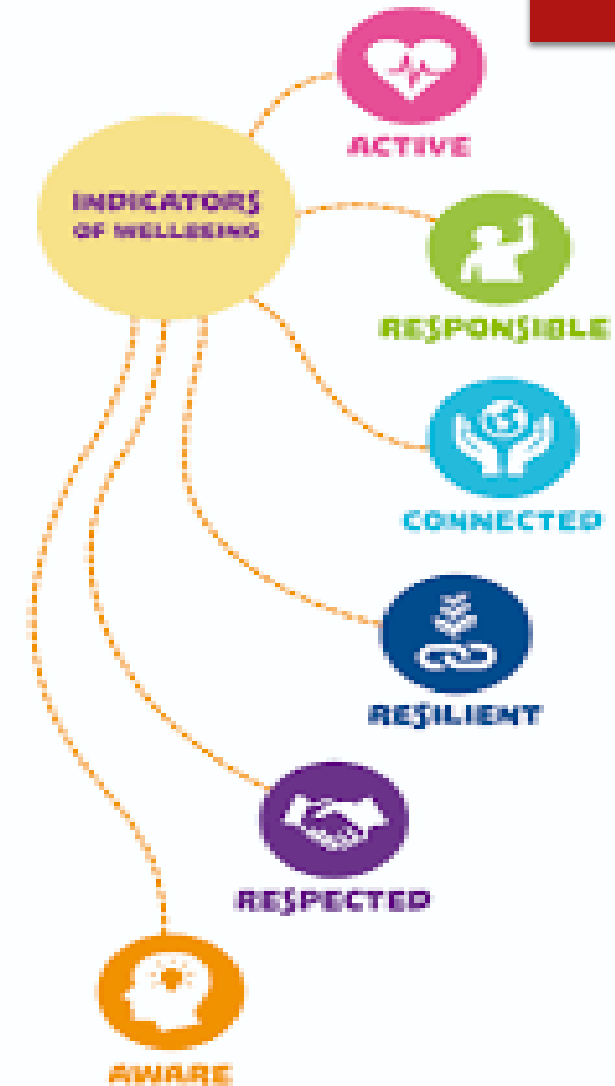
Key Skills

- ▶ Eight key skills
- ▶ embedded in students' learning through each subject



Wellbeing

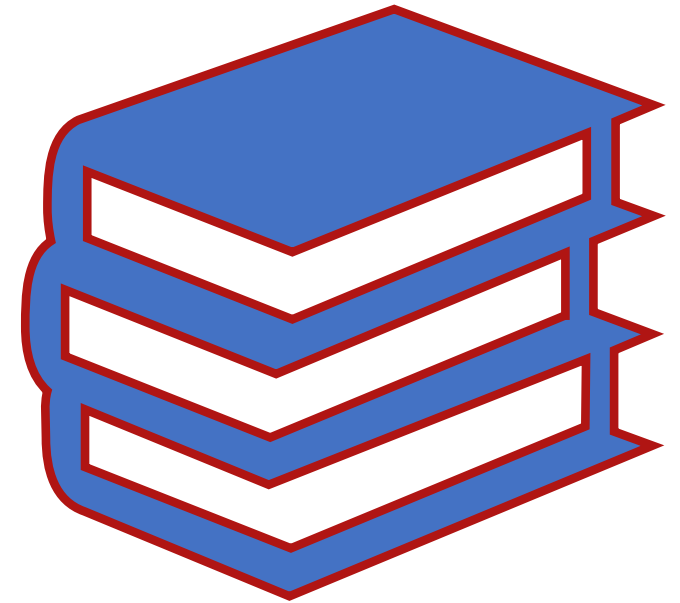
- ▶ A new area of learning at Junior Cycle
- ▶ 400 hours
- ▶ P.E., C.S.P.E., S.P.H.E. incl. RSE, Pastoral Care, Life Skills.
- ▶ Reported on JCPA





Exams

- ▶ House Exams
- ▶ Mocks
- ▶ State Exams



State Examinations – Junior Cycle

Set, held and marked by the State Examinations Commission in June of 3rd Year



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graph TD; A[Set, held and marked by the State Examinations Commission in June of 3rd Year] --> B[English, Irish & Maths specified at Higher and Ordinary levels]; B --> C[All other subjects specified at Common level]; C --> D[Duration - 2 hours or less]; D --> E[June 2022 – Subjects Junior Cycle]
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English, Irish & Maths specified at Higher and Ordinary levels

All other subjects specified at Common level

Duration - 2 hours or less

June 2022 – Subjects Junior Cycle

Grading: Junior Cycle

Junior Certificate

- ▶ Distinction $\geq 90 \leq 100$
- ▶ Higher Merit $\geq 75 < 90$
- ▶ Merit $\geq 55 < 75$
- ▶ Achieved $\geq 40 < 55$
- ▶ Partially Achieved $\geq 20 < 40$
- ▶ Not Graded (NG) $\geq 0 < 20$


- ▶ A $\geq 85 \leq 100$
- ▶ B $\geq 70 < 85$
- ▶ C $\geq 55 < 70$
- ▶ D $\geq 40 < 55$
- ▶ E $\geq 25 < 40$
- ▶ F $\geq 10 < 25$
- ▶ NG $\geq 0 < 10$

Classroom Based Assessments

Provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their understanding and skills in a way which would not be possible in a formal examination.

- ▶ Oral presentations
- ▶ Different types of written work
- ▶ Practical activities
- ▶ Artistic performances
- ▶ Scientific experiments
- ▶ Projects



- 
- ▶ 2 CBAs – CBA1 – 2nd year , CBA2 3rd year.
 - ▶ National Time line – FCJ CBA Calendar
 - ▶ Assessed by class teacher – Features of Quality

**2023/2024 FCJ Compulsory CBA1 Schedule – 2nd year students
(CBAs/Awarding Provisional Descriptors/SLAR Meetings & Final Descriptors)**

[illegible]

21	Feb 5 th	Mocks 6 th year															
	12 th	Mid-Term Break															
22	Feb 19 th																
23	26 th																
24	Mar 4 th																
25	11 th																
26	18 th																
	25 th	Easter Holidays															
	Apr 1 st	Easter Holidays															
27	Apr 8 th																
28	15 th																
29	22 nd																
30	29 th																
31	May 6 th																
32	13 th																
33	20 th																
34	27 th																
	June 3 rd																

Science to choose 3 of the 4 weeks allotted – to facilitate sharing of labs – selected by individual teachers
 Junior Cycle Gaeilge CBA1 Language Portfolio is finalised & submitted in the first term of third year.
 Music *** - Portfolio

Grading

Classroom Based Assessment

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

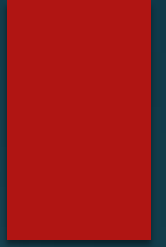
18	15 th																
19	22 nd																
20	29 th																
21	Feb 5 th																PE
	12 th	Mid-Term Break															
22	Feb 19 th																
23	26 th																
24	Mar 4 th																
25	11 th																
26	18 th																
	25 th	Easter Holidays															
	Apr 1 st																
27	Apr 8 th																
28	15 th																
29	22 nd																
30	29 th																
31	May 6 th																
32	13 th																
33	20 th																
34	27 th																
	June 3 rd																

PD – Provisional Descriptor

SLAR – Subject Learning & Review Meeting

FD – Final Descriptor





- ▶ Schools will organise “Subject Learning and Assessment Review” (SLAR) meetings
- ▶ Teachers will compare their assessment of students’ work and ensure a common approach across the school that align to a national standard

Assessment Task

- ▶ Completed following CBA2 (3rd year)
- ▶ % of overall grade awarded for Assessment Task
- ▶ Completed in class under the supervision of the teacher
- ▶ Assessment Task is marked by the State Examinations Commission

3rd Year 2023/2024

(**Revised Arrangements)

- ▶ Each student must complete a minimum of one CBA in each subject.
- ▶ Students will not be required to complete the Assessment Tasks
- ▶ Exceptions to choice:
 - CBA2 – Irish & CBA1 in MFL
 - CBA2 – Visual Art, Home Economics, Applied Technology, Graphics, Wood Technology, Music

(NCCA – Revised arrangements for the completion of CBAs for 3rd year students 2023/2024 – cohort of students 2021 – 2024)

Please note the following weighting of marks for each Junior Cycle subject.

Junior Cycle		
Subject	Written Exam	Project/Practical Exam
Applied Technology	30%	70%
Graphics	70%	30%
Home Economics	50%	50%
Music	70%	30%
Visual Art		100%
Wood Technology	30%	70%
		Assessment Task
Irish	100% <u>(incl. Aural)</u>	No Assessment Task in 2023/2024 (3rd <u>yr</u> students sitting JC 2024)
English	100%	
Maths	100%	
History	100%	
Geography	100%	
Science	100%	
RE	100%	
MFL French/Spanish	100% <u>(incl. Aural)</u>	
Business Studies	100%	

Dates for the projects & practical exams will be issued once they become available.

Other Areas of Learning (OAL)

- ▶ “OAL records student achievement, involvement and participation across a broad range of areas of learning through in-school activities in junior cycle. Activities participated in outside of school are not allowed to be considered in the JCPA”

Other Areas of Learning (OAL)

- An OAL is school related

It happened here



or

while wearing



Reporting

- ▶ Reporting will continue as it currently does in first, second and third-year with reports issued through VSware.
- ▶ Progress is shown in the form of Descriptors as used by the SEC
- ▶ CBAs – Descriptors reported through VSware

Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA)

Junior Cycle State
Exam
Grades/Descriptors

Other Areas of
Learning

JUNIOR CYCLE PROFILE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Sample

2020

State Certified Final Examinations

Irish L2 (H)	Achieved
Mathematics (H)	B
English (H) ⁽⁴⁾	Achieved
Business Studies (C)	Distinction
French (C)	Higher Merit
Geography (H)	A
History (H)	C
Science (C)	Higher Merit
Visual Art (C)	Higher Merit

Classroom-Based Assessments - Subjects

IRISH L2	Language Portfolio	In line with Expectations
	Communicative Task	Above Expectations
ENGLISH	Oral Communication	In line with Expectations
	The Collection of the Student's Texts	Above Expectations
BUSINESS STUDIES	Business in Action	Above Expectations
	Presentation	In line with Expectations
FRENCH	Oral Communication	Above Expectations
	Student Language Portfolio	Above Expectations
SCIENCE	Extended Experimental Investigation	In line with Expectations
	Science in Society Investigation	Above Expectations
VISUAL ART	From Process to Realisation	In line with Expectations
	Communicate and Reflect	Exceptional

Other Areas of Learning

Mary took part in a school drama performance, learned to express herself and build her communication skills.

Mary participated in the school Science Competition (Let's Explore) where she developed ways to recycle plastic. In doing so, she learned to bring an idea from conception to realisation.

Mary through her role as Class Representative learned to communicate effectively as a voice for the students in her class.

Mary worked collaboratively with others, in the organisation and promotion of the school carol service for the local community.

Mary was a member of the school camogie team, where she committed to training and developed her confidence in physical activity.

Classroom-Based Assessments - Short Courses

Digital Media Literacy	Above Expectations
Philosophy	In line with Expectations

Wellbeing

CSPE	Not Reported
SPHE	Not Reported
PE	Above Expectations

Other Areas of Wellbeing

In SPHE, Mary reflected on and learned about the changing patterns of teenage friendship and how best to manage relationships.

Mary completed a project in CSPE where she learned about the social and economic impact of homelessness.

As part of the school's Wellbeing Programme, Mary participated in Lockers where she learned about the influence of social media, peer pressure and stereotypes in the digital world.

Principal

Colman Candy

Year head

Ann Howett

Roll Number: 60478Q

Anytown Secondary School
Anytown
Co. Any County

This JCPA recognises and records achievements in Junior Cycle.

CBA Descriptors
CBA1 & CBA2

Wellbeing
Descriptor
(Short Course)

Other Areas of
Wellbeing

Policy Document

- ▶ Attendance
- ▶ Responsibility
- ▶ Students own work

Principal
Mrs. Sharmila K. Kalyan

Deputy Principals
Mrs. Pooja K. Kalyan
Mrs. Sharmila K. Kalyan
Mrs. Pooja K. Kalyan



F.C.A. Secondary School
Bamburgh
Bamburgh
Bamburgh

Ref: 101/2017/2018
School App: 101/2017/2018
Parent: 101/2017/2018
Ref: 101/2017/2018

F.C.A. School Policy around Classroom Based Assessment (CBA) and Assessment Task (AT)

- As CBAs are reported on to each student's Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA), it is vital that students and parents/guardians note the date of the CBA and do their very best to ensure student's attendance within the national set timetable. Parents/guardians are encouraged to schedule external 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.
- F.C.A. realise that students may have to attend important extra-curricular school events during the CBA timeframe. 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 absences in advance.
- Students should note that while they will be allowed to attend important school sports events, etc. activities during the CBA, they must attend for their Assessment Task. [Assessment Task not applicable in the current year]
- Where a student is absent, under exceptional circumstances, for the completion of all or part of the Assessment Task, F.C.A. 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 bring the school with a doctor's note or other relevant documentation. [Assessment Task not applicable in the current year]
- Only work that is the student's own can be accepted for assessment in the JCPA.

Please read and understand the above guidelines and school policy.

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

Please sign and return the blue copy of this page to Mr. Columba by Thursday 12th October 2023. This blue form has been given to students at this on Tuesday. Forms will be collected directly from the home classroom.

Facilitated by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus, in 2018

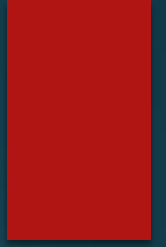
Compassion, Justice, Excellence, Hope, Integrity, Growth

What stays the same?

- ▶ Broad and balanced curriculum
- ▶ Standards and expectations remain high
- ▶ Subjects continue to play an important role in Junior Cycle
- ▶ The Department of Education and Skills will monitor quality across all schools
- ▶ The State Examinations Commission will continue to be involved in assessment for certification

Further Information

- ▶ www.curriculumonline.ie
- ▶ www.ncca.ie
- ▶ www.fcjbunclody.ie
- ▶ Examinations.ie



“Attendance is the keystone upon which a child’s education is built.”

Procedures

- ▶ Absences – 1 or more FULL days – 1 of the following:
 - Log on Vsware
 - email school office
 - Phone call to school office
 - purple note in journal on return to school
- ▶ Late to school – orange note in school journal/phone call/email
- ▶ Leaving school during the school day – green note in school journal

(All notes, phone calls or emails through the school office)

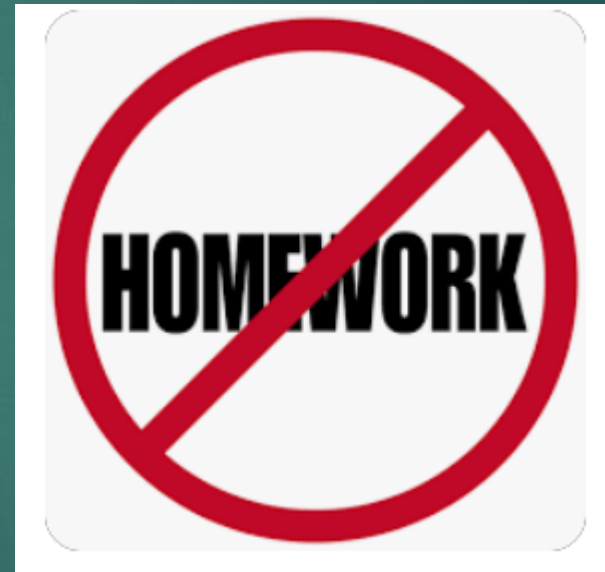
Homework & Study

▶ 2nd Year: 2 – 2.5 hours

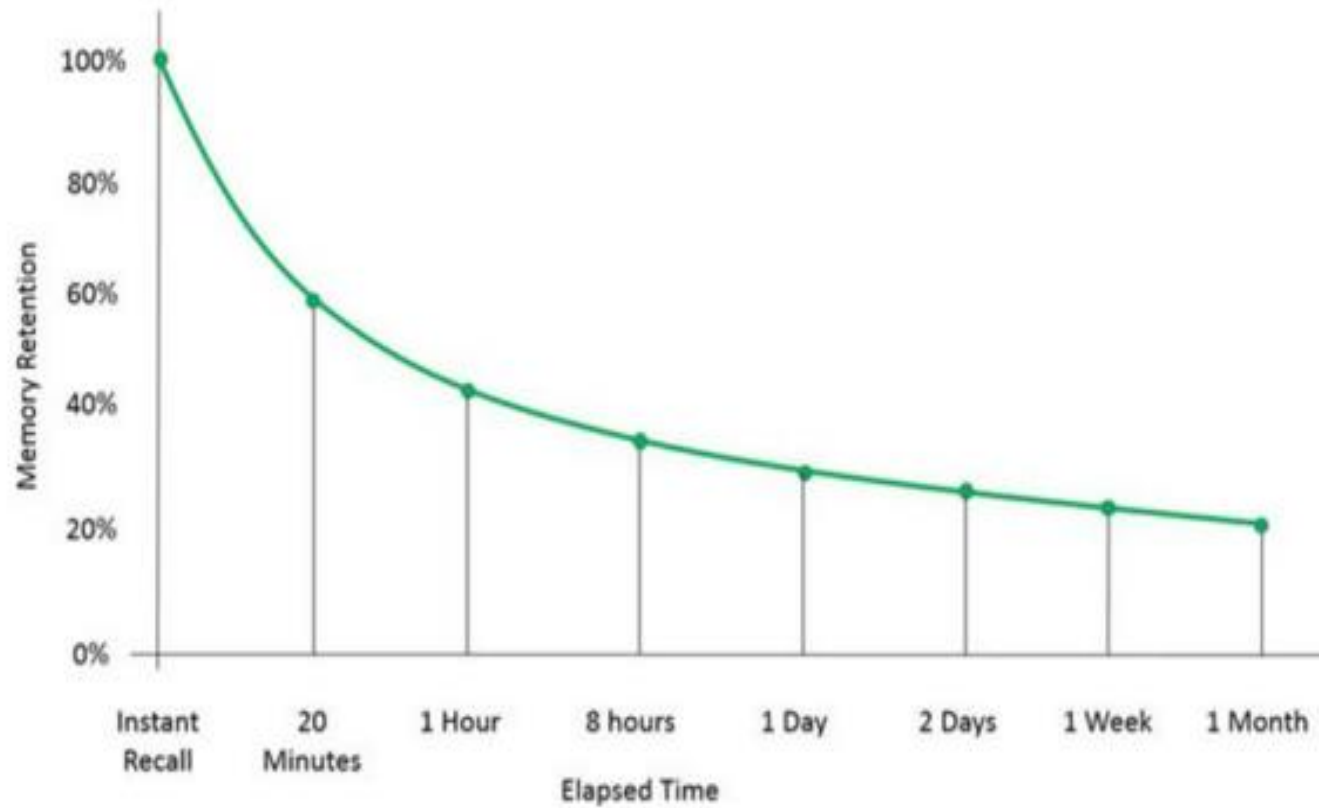
▶ 3rd Year: 2.5 – 3 hours

Truth or Myth!

► 'FREE CLASS'



The Forgetting Curve



The Forgetting Curve

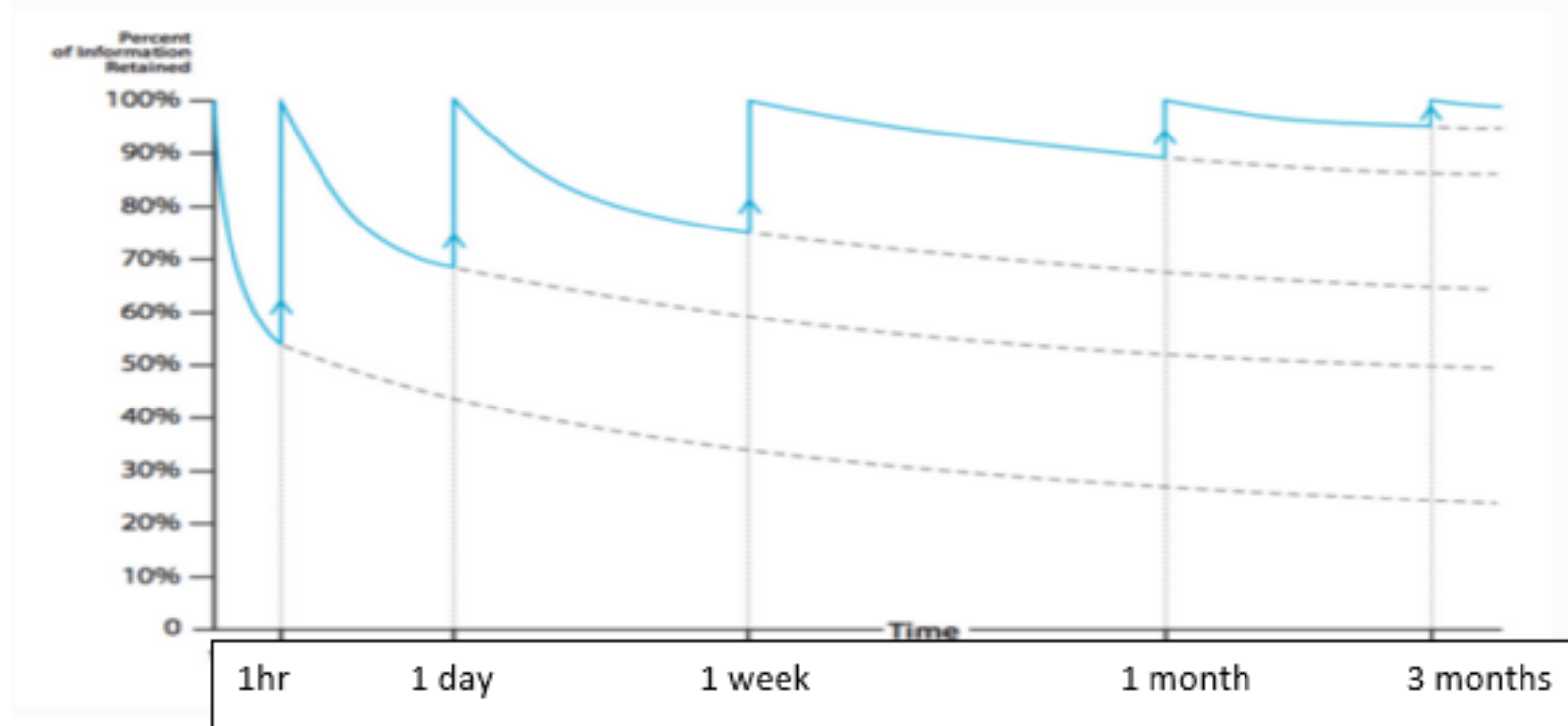
German psychologist Hermann Ebbinghaus, in the 1880's, wanted to understand more about why we forget things and how to prevent it. His research produced the Forgetting Curve - a visual representation of the way that learned information fades over time.

His research results revealed a number of key aspects of memory:

- **Memories weaken over time.** If we learn something new, but then make no attempt to relearn that information, we remember less and less of it as the hours, days and weeks go by.
- **The biggest drop in retention happens soon after learning.** This is reflected by the steep fall at the start of the Forgetting Curve (see figure 1). Without reviewing or reinforcing our learning, our ability to retain the information plummets. For example, you may leave a class with your head full of new facts and figures, only to find that you can remember very little of it just hours later.
- **It's easier to remember things that have meaning.** Things with little or no meaning for you conform most closely to the Forgetting Curve. So, for instance, if you're listening to a talk on a subject that you don't really understand or have little interest in, you are more likely forget it faster than if it were on a subject that you found really engaging or exciting.

Beating the forgetting Curve

This approach is often referred to as "spaced learning" (See figure 2)



(figure 2)

Beating the Forgetting Curve

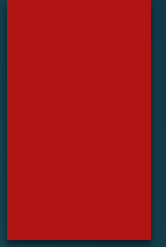
The most important discovery Ebbinghaus made was that, by reviewing new information at key moments on the Forgetting Curve, you can reduce the rate at which you forget it!

This approach is often referred to as "spaced learning" (See figure 2)

The secret to beating the forgetting curve is to revisit the material that you have learned regularly.

- each time you practice recalling what you know, the rate and amount of forgetting is reduced.
- retrieving something back into working memory slows the rate of forgetting, but how and when the retrieval happens is important.

How often should work be reviewed?



Within
1 hour

Within
1 day

Within
1 week

Within
1 month

Within
3 months

Evening
of same
day

Countdown to Exams

▶ 2nd Year –
November 14th – 17th

▶ 3rd Year –
October 24th – 27th



Plan - Don't Cram.

If you know where you are and you know what you have left to cover, everything becomes more manageable.



Homework & Study - A Planned Approach.

This timetable was designed by a 3rd year student (2020/2021). It allows for an organised and manageable approach to homework & study.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2.5 hrs	Homework	Homework	Homework	Homework	Homework	Homework?	Homework?
	Subject 1	Subject 3	Subject 5	Subject 7	Subject 9	Subject 1	Subject 6
	Subject 2	Subject 4	Subject 6	Subject 8	Subject 10	Subject 2	Subject 7
<p>2.5/3 hours homework & study combined each evening.</p> <p>Do homework first, then split the remaining time between the two subjects you have chosen to study for that evening.</p> <p>This schedule allows you to revise/study each subject twice in the week.</p> <p>Make your own revision/study notes.</p> <p>Use learning intentions at the start of the chapter/section and questions at the end of the chapter to test yourself.</p>						Subject 3	Subject 8
						Subject 4	Subject 9
						Subject 5	Subject 10
						20/30 minutes maximum per subject - learning/revision.	

An alternative planned approach to Homework & Study

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6

- 6 x 25 minute sessions (Friday/Saturday/Sunday - spread your 6 sessions to suit your weekend).
Assign a subject to each session based on your timetable for that day. Focus on exam subjects.
- A session can include written/oral/ aural homework & study.
- Work covered at class must be studied again before the next class in that subject
- beating the forgetting curve.
- All study sessions should have regular breaks built in, e.g. 3 twenty five minute study sessions followed by a Short 10-15 minute break. Students should use these breaks to have a healthy snack and water drink. It is also important that students also build in light exercise and fresh air (a short walk)
- Have a clear goal for each session.

Study/Revision Tips

Make/Refine own notes -

- Flash Cards
- Mind Maps
- Key Words
- Time Lines etc....



Test knowledge regularly

- Read the topic with questions in mind.
- Use exam papers & also ask what other questions could be asked.
- Use end of chapter questions.
- Test self - write the answers & correct them - highlight problem areas.

Teach the material to someone else.

If they can explain it to someone, they can explain it to an examiner.



Organisation

- Dedicated study area - if possible
- Keep notes & books organised
- Make sure to have everything needed before beginning - less time wasted.



Remove all distractions!!

- Put phone away
- Turn off notifications
- Switch off TV, music etc
- Study under exam conditions



A Good Routine

- Eat well - healthy
- Regular breaks - e.g 3 x 25 min study sessions followed by a short 10/15 min break.
- Break - Light exercise, fresh air, snack.
- Sleep well



- Ask for help if necessary - use the supports available
- Panic & pressure can be contagious - stay calm.

MR. CALM



"Never do
tomorrow what
you can do
today.

Procrastination is
the thief of time."

CHARLES DICKENS

Contact

- ▶ office@fcjbunclody.ie
- ▶ 053 9377308



Thank You