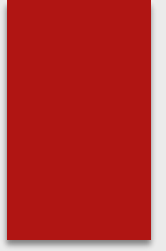


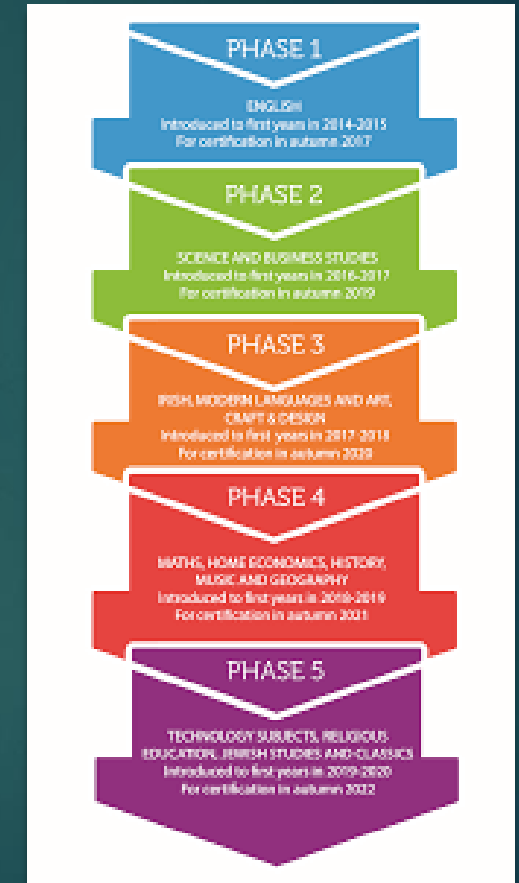
Junior Cycle: Information for Parents 2024/2025



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

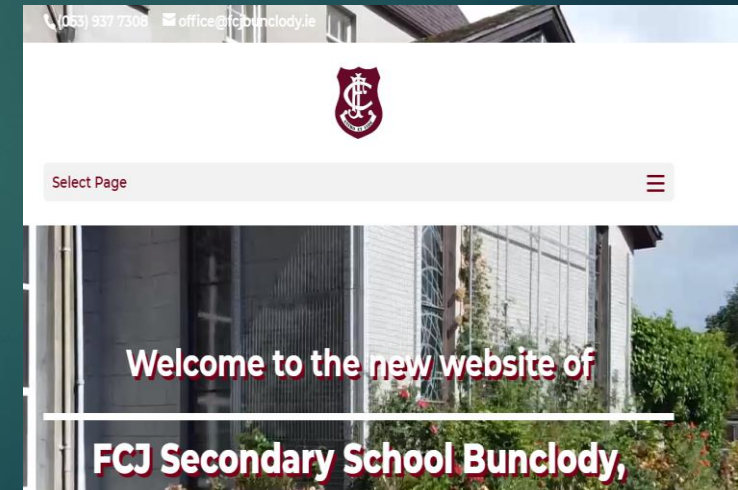
1st – 3rd Year – Core

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

Options

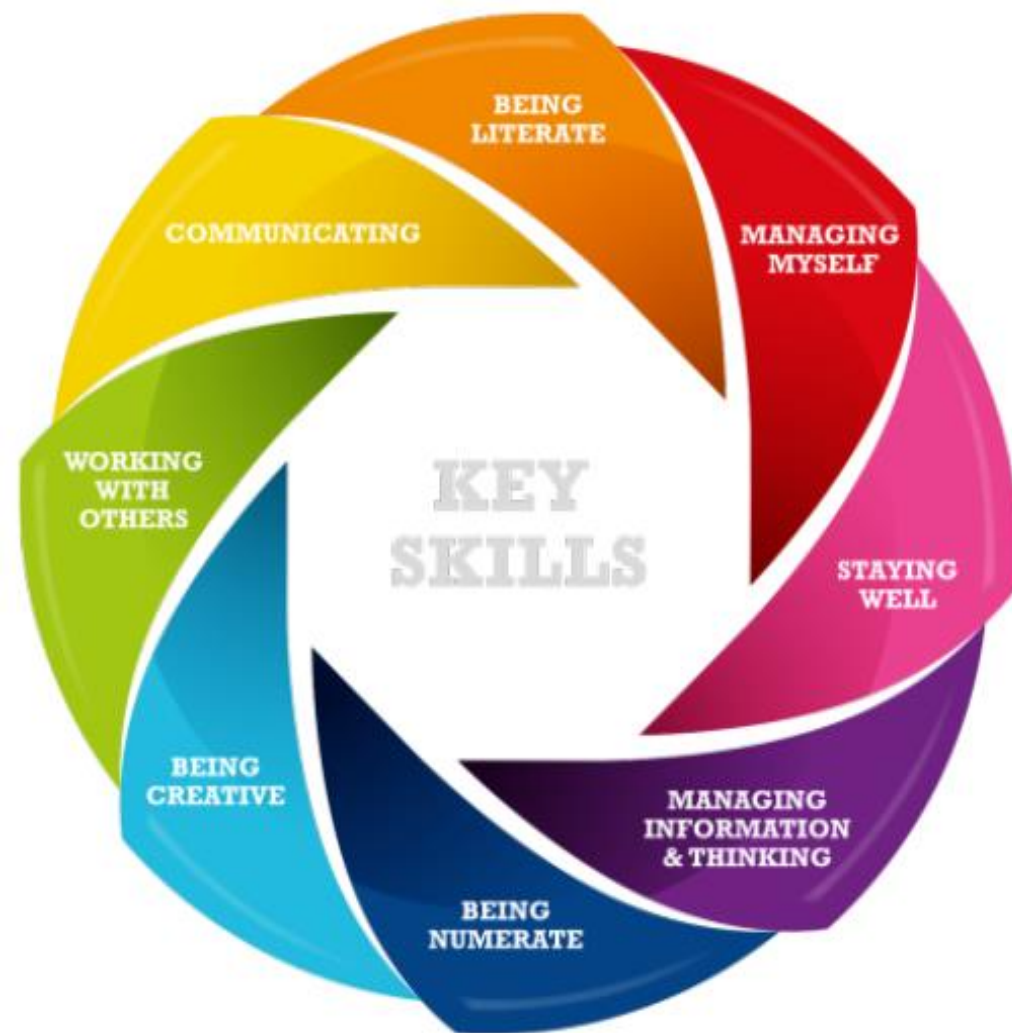
- ▶ Applied Technology
- ▶ Business Studies
- ▶ Engineering
- ▶ Graphics
- ▶ Home Economics
- ▶ Music
- ▶ Visual Art
- ▶ Wood Technology

Curriculumonline.ie
Fcjbunclody.ie



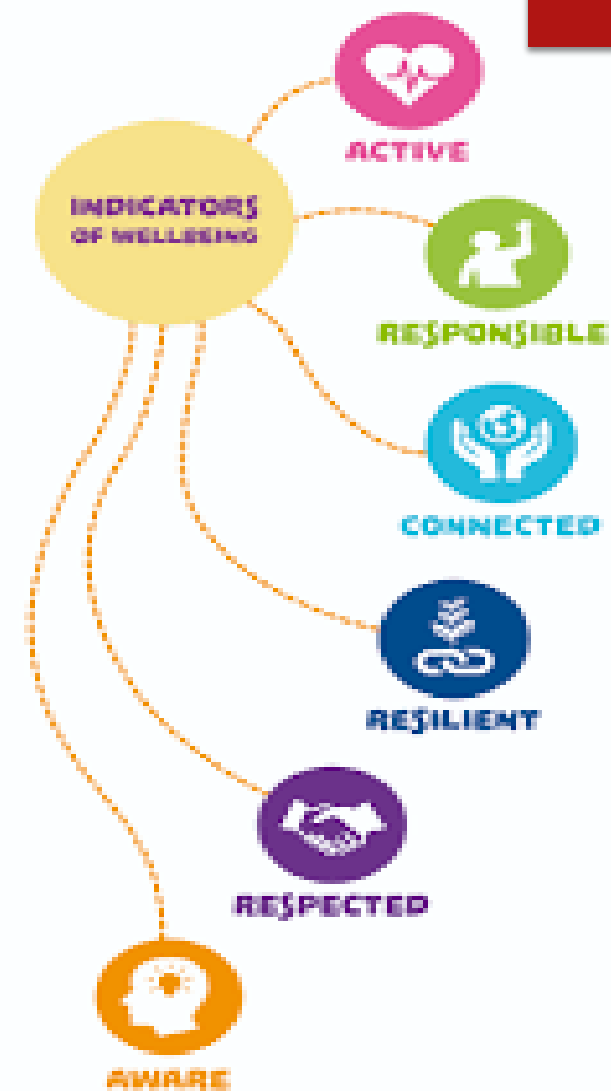
Key Skills

- ▶ 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



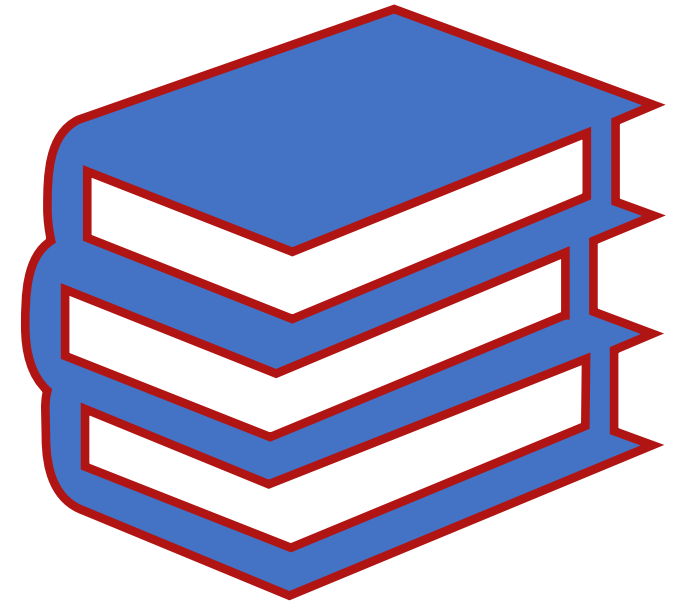
Assessment

Reporting



Exams

- ▶ House Exams
- ▶ Mocks
- ▶ State Exams



State Examinations – Junior Cycle

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

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

19	20 th																		
20	27 th																		
21	Feb 3 rd	Mocks 3 rd & 6 th year																	
22	10 th	Mocks 6 th year																	
	17 th	Mid-Term Break																	
23	Feb 24 th																		
24	Mar 3 rd																		
25	10 th																		
26	17 th																		
27	24 th																		
28	31 st																		
29	Apr 7 th																		
	14 th																		
	21 st																		
30	28 th																		
31	May 5 th																		
32	12 th																		
33	19 th																		
34	26 th																		
	June 3 rd																		

Music *** - Portfolio Deadline

CSPE & SPHE CBAs will take place in 3rd year

Irish, Applied Technology, Engineering, Graphics, Home Economics, Wood technology & Visual Art will complete CBA2 in 3rd year

Grading

Classroom Based Assessment

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



- ▶ 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 2024/2025 (**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 2024/2025 – cohort of students 2022 – 2025)

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% (incl. Aural)	No Assessment Task in 2024/2025 (3rd yr students sitting JC 2025)
English	100%	
Maths	100%	
History	100%	
Geography	100%	
Science	100%	
RE	100%	
MFL French/Spanish	100% (incl. Aural)	
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 VShare.
- ▶ Progress is shown in the form of Descriptors as used by the SEC
- ▶ CBAs – Descriptors reported through VShare

Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA)

JUNIOR CYCLE PROFILE OF ACHIEVEMENT		Sample	2020
State Certified Final Examinations		Classroom-Based Assessments - Subjects	
Irish L2 (H)	Achieved	IRISH L2	Language Portfolio: In line with Expectations Communicative Task: Above Expectations
Mathematics (H)	B	ENGLISH	Oral Communication: In line with Expectations The Collection of the Student's Texts: Above Expectations
English (H) ⁽⁴⁾	Achieved	BUSINESS STUDIES	Business in Action: Above Expectations Presentation: In line with Expectations
Business Studies (C)	Distinction	FRENCH	Oral Communication: Above Expectations Student Language Portfolio: Above Expectations
French (C)	Higher Merit	SCIENCE	Extended Experimental Investigation: In line with Expectations Science in Society Investigation: Above Expectations
Geography (H)	A	VISUAL ART	From Process to Realisation: In line with Expectations Communicate and Reflect: Exceptional
History (H)	C		
Science (C)	Higher Merit		
Visual Art (C)	Higher Merit		
Other Areas of Learning		Classroom-Based Assessments - Short Courses	
<p>Mary took part in a school drama performance, learned to express herself and build her communication skills.</p> <p>Mary participated in the school Science Competition (<i>Let's Explore</i>) where she developed ways to recycle plastic. In doing so, she learned to bring an idea from conception to realisation.</p> <p>Mary through her role as Class Representative learned to communicate effectively as a voice for the students in her class.</p> <p>Mary worked collaboratively with others, in the organisation and promotion of the school carol service for the local community.</p> <p>Mary was a member of the school camogie team, where she committed to training and developed her confidence in physical activity.</p>		<p>Digital Media Literacy: Above Expectations</p> <p>Philosophy: In line with Expectations</p>	
Other Areas of Learning		Wellbeing	
		<p>CSPE: Not Reported</p> <p>SPHE: Not Reported</p> <p>PE: Above Expectations</p>	
Other Areas of Learning		Other Areas of Wellbeing	
		<p>In SPHE, Mary reflected on and learned about the changing patterns of teenage friendship and how best to manage relationships.</p> <p>Mary completed a project in CSPE where she learned about the social and economic impact of homelessness.</p> <p>As part of the school's Wellbeing Programme, Mary participated in <i>Lockers</i> where she learned about the influence of social media, peer pressure and stereotypes in the digital world.</p>	
Principal	Year head	Roll Number: 60478Q	
Colman Candy 	Ann Howett 	 Anytown Secondary School Anytown Co. Any County	
This JCPA recognises and records achievements in Junior Cycle.			

Junior Cycle State Exam Grades/Descriptors

CBA Descriptors
CBA1 & CBA2

Other Areas of Learning

Wellbeing Descriptor
(Short Course)

Other Areas of Wellbeing

Policy Document

- ▶ Attendance
- ▶ Responsibility
- ▶ Students own work



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

1. 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 dates of the CBAs and do their very best to ensure that all attendance within the national set timetable. Event organizers are encouraged to schedule external appointments outside of school time where possible. Parents must be aware that teachers have to input results promptly and it would thus may be little leeway to give any form of extension.
2. FCJ realize that students may have to attend important extra-curricular 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.
3. Parents should note that while they will be allowed to attend important school sports events, as scheduled during the CBAs, they must attend for their Assessment Tasks. [Assessment Task not applicable in the current year]
4. Where a student is absent, under agreed 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 timetable scheduled for completion. Such situations can be agreed with the school with a letter in line with other relevant documentation. [Assessment Task not applicable in the current year]
5. Only work that is the student's own can be accepted for assessment in the JCPA.

I have 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. Collins by Thursday 12th October 2023. This blue form has been given to students at this on Tuesday. Forms will be collected directly from the class classrooms.

Facilities by the School, Facilities Comparison of Areas in 2016
(Comparability: Justice, Excellence, Work, Disability, Youth work)

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



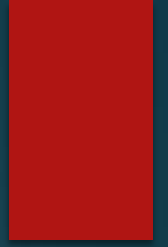
“Attendance is the keystone upon which a child’s education is built.”

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)

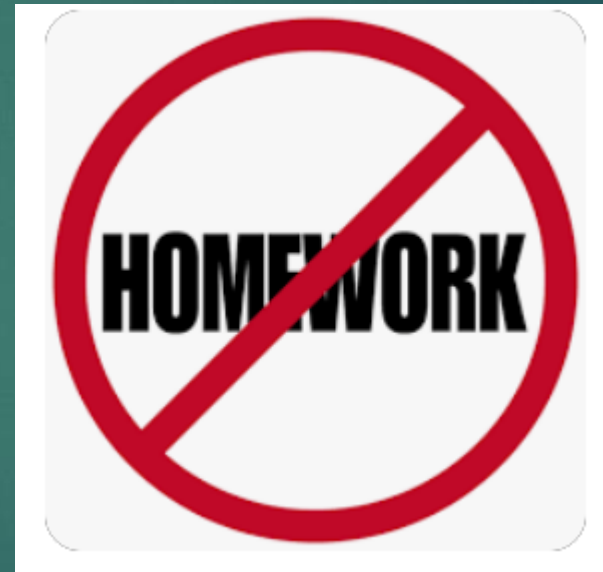
Homework & Study (Homework & Study Policy)



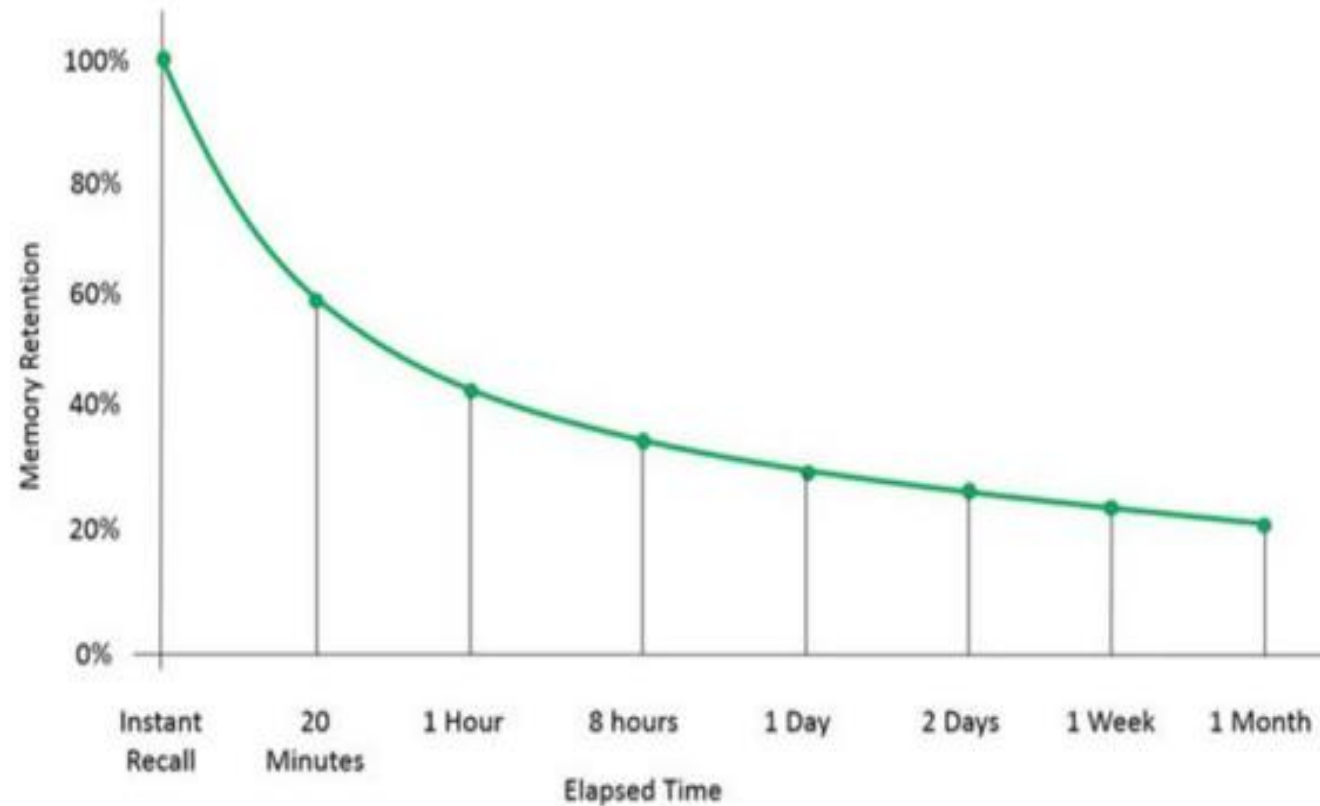
Year Group	Daily Average	Weekly Average
1 st Year	1.5 – 2 hours	7.5 – 10 hours
2 nd Year	2 – 2.5 hours	10 – 12.5 hours
3 rd Year	2.5 – 3 hours	12.5 – 15 hours

Truth or Myth!

▶ 'FREE CLASS'



The Forgetting Curve



The Forgetting Curve

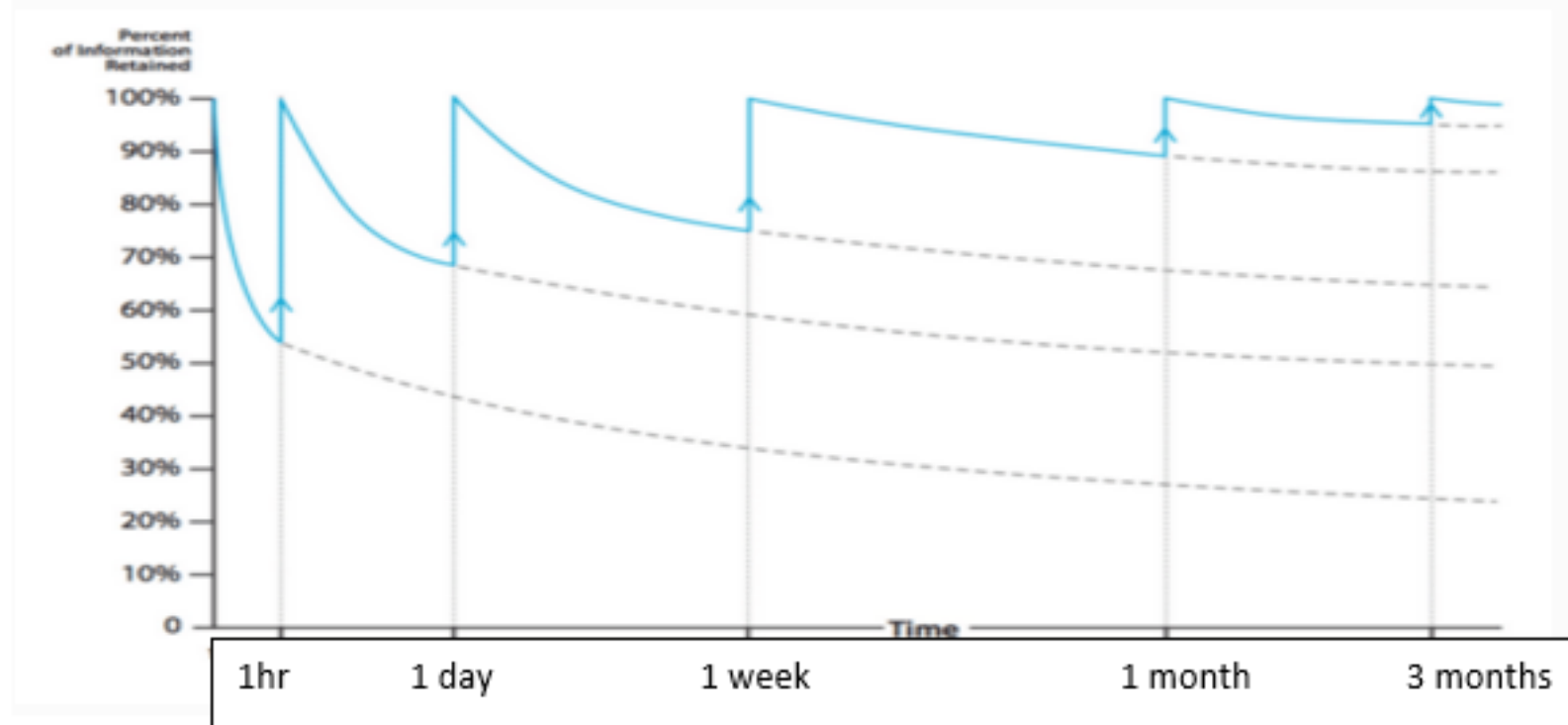
German psychologist Hermann Ebbinghaus, in the 1880's, wanted to understand more about why we forget things and how to prevent it. His research produced the Forgetting Curve - a visual representation of the way that learned information fades over time.

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 19th – 22nd

▶ 3rd Year –

November 12th - 15th



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. Do homework first, then split the remaining time between the two subjects you have chosen to study for that evening. This schedule allows you to revise/study each subject twice in the week. Make your own revision/study notes. 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

Social, Personal and Health Education
05
MS. AM. DOYLE
3SPHE-C
08:50 - 09:50

Irish
48
MS. N. HANRAHAN
3Irish-13.3
09:50 - 10:50

Additional Teacher(s):
Ms. M. Doyle

French
40
MS. B. CUMMINS
3French-10.1
11:10 - 12:10

Science (JC - Revised Syllabus)
73
MS. A. MAGUIRE
3Sci-7.3
12:10 - 13:10

Business Studies
16
MS. B. BENNETT
3Bus St-2.2
13:50 - 14:50

History
47
MS. L. KENNY
3His-C
14:50 - 15:50

Mathematics
75
MS. N. DEVLIN
3Maths-12.2
08:50 - 09:50

Irish
48
MS. N. HANRAHAN
3Irish-13.3
09:50 - 10:50

Geography
46 B
MR. S. O'NEILL
3Geo-C
11:10 - 12:10

Religious Education (JC Exam)
05
MS. AM. DOYLE
3Rel-C
12:10 - 13:10

English
09
Ms. K. O'Gorman
3English-C
13:50 - 14:50

Home Economics
32
MS. A. MAGUIRE
3Hom Ec-1.1
14:50 - 15:50

Science (JC - Revised Syllabus)
32
MS. A. MAGUIRE
3Sci-7.3
08:50 - 09:50

Mathematics
75
MS. N. DEVLIN
3Maths-12.2
09:50 - 10:50

History
47
MS. L. KENNY
3His-C
11:10 - 12:10

Physical Education
PE HALL B
MS. K. HOWLIN
3JC PE-C
12:10 - 13:10

Civic, Social & Political Education (Short Course)
46 A
MS. J. KEARNS
3Civ-C
13:50 - 14:50

English
09
Ms. K. O'Gorman
3English-C
14:50 - 15:50

Religious Education (JC Exam)
05
MS. AM. DOYLE
3Rel-C
08:50 - 09:50

Home Economics
32
MS. A. MAGUIRE
3Hom Ec-1.1
09:50 - 10:50

Life Skills
23
MR. D. HENNESSY
3Lif-5.2-R1
11:10 - 12:10

French
40
MS. B. CUMMINS
3French-10.1
12:10 - 13:10

Civic, Social & Political Education (Short Course)
46 A
MS. J. KEARNS
3Civ-C
13:50 - 14:50

English
09
Ms. K. O'Gorman
3English-C
14:50 - 15:50

Business Studies
16
MS. B. BENNETT
3Bus St-2.2
08:50 - 09:50

English
09
Ms. K. O'Gorman
3English-C
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Geography
46 B
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12:10 - 13:10

Science (JC - Revised Syllabus)
73
MS. A. MAGUIRE
3Sci-7.3
13:50 - 14:50

Irish
48
MS. N. HANRAHAN
3Irish-13.3
14:50 - 15:50

- 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....



Information Retrieval



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





BRIGHTER MINDS



"Never do
tomorrow what
you can do
today.

Procrastination is
the thief of time."

CHARLES DICKENS

Contact

- ▶ office@fcjbunclody.ie
- ▶ 053 9377308

Thank You