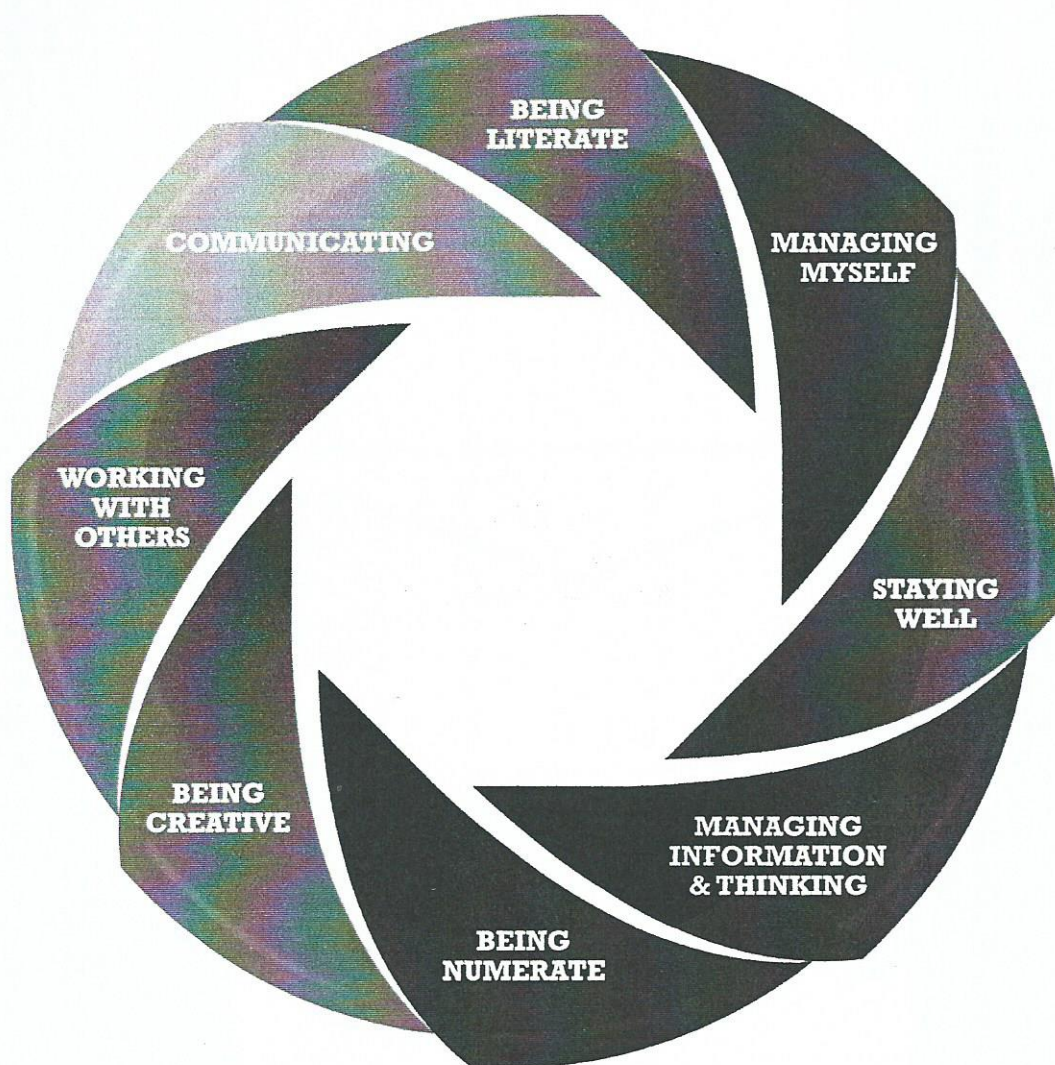


Junior Cycle



PHASE 1

ENGLISH

Introduced to first years in 2014-2015
For certification in autumn 2017

PHASE 2

SCIENCE AND BUSINESS STUDIES

Introduced to first years in 2016-2017
For certification in autumn 2019

PHASE 3

IRISH, MODERN LANGUAGES AND ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

Introduced to first years in 2017-2018
For certification in autumn 2020

PHASE 4

MATHS, HOME ECONOMICS, HISTORY, MUSIC AND GEOGRAPHY

Introduced to first years in 2018-2019
For certification in autumn 2021

PHASE 5

TECHNOLOGY SUBJECTS, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, JEWISH STUDIES AND CLASSICS

Introduced to first years in 2019-2020
For certification in autumn 2022

Dear First Year Parents/Guardians,

Here is some important information and FAQs regarding the New Junior Cycle course.

1

How will my son be assessed at Junior Cycle?

- ✓ Classroom-based assessment across the 3 years
- ✓ Final externally-assessed, state-certified examination.

At the end of year 3, students will receive a new Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) which will replace the 'Junior Certificate'.

The JCPA will report on a number of areas, including:

1. Subjects (State Examination and Assessment Task)
2. Classroom Based Assessments
3. Other Learning Experiences

2

How many subjects will my son be completing?

- ✓ Students will study a maximum of ten subjects for the JCPA.
- ✓ Only ten subjects can be examined and reported on in the terminal exam.
- ✓ English, Irish & Maths (Higher & Ordinary Level) / All other subjects are offered at common level only

New Grading System

- ✓ Distinction 90 to 100%
- ✓ Higher Merit 75 to 89%
- ✓ Merit 55 to 74%
- ✓ Achieved 40 to 54%
- ✓ Partially Achieved 20 to 39%
- ✓ (not graded) 0 to 19%

3

What do Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) entail?

CBAs provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their learning and skills in ways not possible in a pen and paper examination.

- ✓ CBAs will be undertaken during a defined time period within normal class contact time and to a national timetable.
- ✓ Students will complete one CBA in second year and one in third year in most subjects.

Students in third year will complete a written Assessment Task on what they have learned. It will be sent to the State Examinations Commission (SEC) for marking. This Assessment Task will account for 10% of the overall mark for the final examination.

4

What are 'Other Learning Experiences'?

Students will have the opportunity to engage with a range of other learning experiences which can be recorded on the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement.

This could include extracurricular activities;

- ✓ Membership of the student council or school club
- ✓ Participation in school sporting activities/musical
- ✓ Volunteering/Competitions