

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí

Junior **CYCLE** for teachers

Junior Cycle *Information for Parents*



The Junior Cycle and your child

- ◆ Junior Cycle places students at the **centre** of the educational experience, enabling them to **actively participate** in their communities and in society and to be **resourceful** and **confident learners** in all aspects and stages of their lives.
- ◆ The world is changing at a rapid rate and the curriculum must adapt in order to best prepare students for their future and their ability to take on these challenges.
- ◆ The Junior Cycle curriculum places the student at its core.

Roll out of Junior Cycle Specifications:

- ◆ Phase 1 English 3rd yrs
 - ◆ Phase 2 Science & Business Studies 2nd yrs
 - ◆ Phase 3 Irish, Mod Lang, Visual Art, Wellbeing 1st yrs
 - ◆ Phase 4 Maths, Home Econ, History, Music, Geography 2018/19
 - ◆ Phase 5 Technology, RE. 2019/20
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- ◆ www.curriculumonline.ie (access to subject specifications, assessment specifications....)

What stays the same?

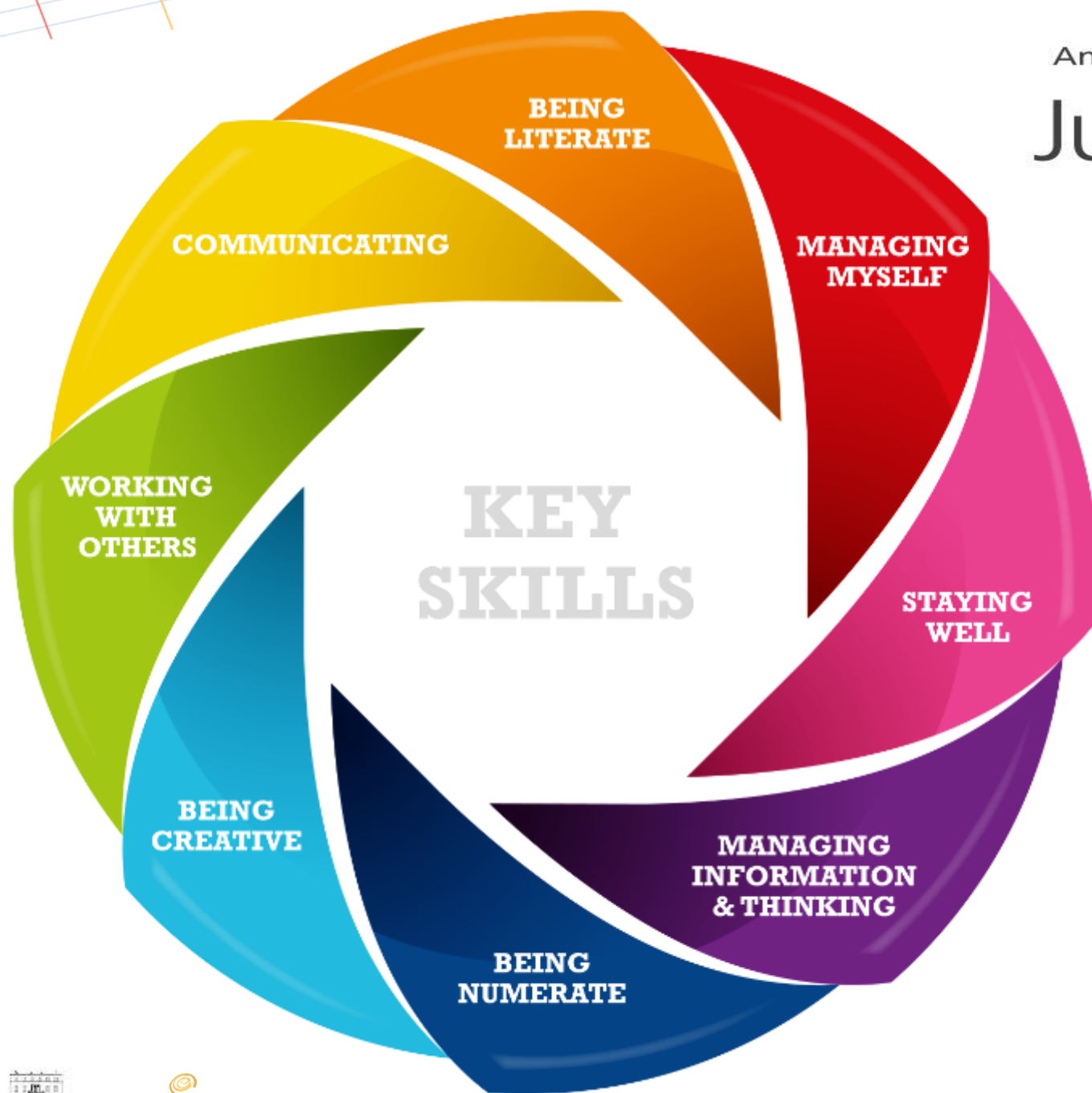
- Students experience a broad and balanced curriculum
- Standards and expectations remain high
- Subjects continue to play an important role in the Junior Cycle
- The Department of Education and Skills will monitor quality across all schools
- The State Examinations Commission will continue to be involved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

What is improving?

- A better and a more engaging learning experience for your child
- Updated subject specifications
- Quality reporting back to parents and students
- Assessment to support learning
- An emphasis on Key Skills (8) and preparation for life
- A sound preparation for learning at Senior Cycle and beyond

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Junior **CYCLE** for teachers



Through engaging with the key skills students will:

- ◆ Be more **actively engage** with learning
- ◆ Take **greater ownership** of their learning
- ◆ Have a critical engagement with **digital technology**
- ◆ Be encouraged to **problem solve** and **think creatively**

Wellbeing

- ◆ Your daughter's wellbeing is of central importance to her educational success and overall happiness.
- ◆ As a result Wellbeing will become a core part of your daughters junior cycle experience

Wellbeing

This area of learning includes, amongst others,

- Physical Education
- Social, Personal and Health Ed
- Civic, Social and Political Education
- Guidance



A changing assessment culture

- Assessment in **support** of learning
- Assessment focused on **offering effective feedback**
- **Greater variety** of assessment activity - “fit for purpose” and relevant to students
- Teachers talking to teachers about assessment

Ensuring Quality

- Schools will organise “Subject Learning and Assessment Review” meetings
- Teachers will compare their assessment of students’ work and ensure a common approach across the school
- Teachers and schools will be supported by a team of assessment associates working with Junior Cycle for Teachers
- CPD will be provided for teachers to ensure that the Classroom-Based Assessments align to a national standard

Your child will be involved in

- Reviewing feedback and identifying what they have done well
- Identifying what to do next
- Setting and achieving personal goals
- Redrafting and correcting their own work
- Giving feedback to others
- Considering examples of good work and identifying how they can improve on their own work

Assessment: Subjects

Exams will be set, held and marked by the State Examinations Commission in June of third year.

- English, Irish and Maths specified at Higher and Ordinary levels
- All other subjects specified at a Common Level
- Duration of 2 hours or less
- Students study a maximum of 10 subjects

Assessment: Subjects



Classroom-Based Assessments

- 2 Classroom-Based Assessmentsover the course of second and third year.
- An Assessment Task in third year
- CBA reported to parents and students by the school
- Variety of assessment methods used

Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs)

CBAs provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their learning and skills in ways not possible in a paper exam, e.g. their verbal communication and investigation skills.

CBAs could range from project tasks, oral language tasks and investigations, to practical or design and/or make tasks, field studies and artistic performances.

Facilitated by classroom teacher.

CBA's will be reported on in the JCPA using the following descriptors:

- ◆ Exceptional
- ◆ Above Expectations
- ◆ In line with Expectations
- ◆ Yet to meet Expectations

Assessment Task (AT)

- ◆ This is a written assessment that requires the students to reflect on the skills, knowledge and understanding that they developed throughout their experience of the 2nd CBA.
- ◆ The assessment task will be completed during class time under the supervision of a teacher and will take place over two lesson periods.
- ◆ AT will be submitted to SEC for marking along with the state-certified exam.

Other Learning Experiences

- ◆ Students will have the opportunity to engage with a range of other learning experiences as part of their junior cycle programme and these can be recorded on the JCPA.
- ◆ Such learning experiences play a critical role in ensuring that students are provided with a broad and balanced educational experience!
- ◆ eg Student engagement in a science fair, a musical performance, a debating competition....

Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) will report on

- SEC examinations of subjects
- Classroom-Based Assessments
- Wellbeing
- Other areas of learning

Grading

Instead of A,B,C,D,E, F & NG the following descriptors will be used:

- ◆ Distinction 90-100%
- ◆ Higher Merit 75-89%
- ◆ Merit 55-74%
- ◆ Achieved 40-54%
- ◆ Partially Achieved 20-39%
- ◆ Not Graded 0-19%

What is the purpose of education in Junior Cycle?

- Help students become better learners and develop a love of learning
- Provide a solid foundation for further study
- To develop skills for learning and life
- To support learning through improved reporting to both students and parents