



# *New Junior Cycle Information for Parents...*

[https://youtu.be/U8E\\_79B9Klw](https://youtu.be/U8E_79B9Klw)

## *Explaining the Changes*

# *Contents of this Presentation*

- *Why change is needed in Junior Cycle*
- *What will be different?*
- *Key Skills and Statements of Learning*
- *Wellbeing*
- *Curriculum and Assessment*

# Why Change?

## ESRI research

- Many students are turned off learning in Junior Cert
- The JC exam is dominating teaching and learning in many Irish classrooms
- There is too much emphasis on covering content
- The world has changed
- There is a narrow range of assessment activity – lots of tests!

# What will be different for your daughter?

- Smoother transition from primary to post-primary
- More actively involved in their learning
- Investigative approaches rather than being told
- Greater emphasis on literacy, numeracy and the key skills
- Assessment – nearer in time and place to the learning
- Improved feedback and reporting to parents/guardians

# What will stay the same for your daughter?

- 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



# So... What's the difference between the new Junior Cycle and the old Junior Certificate?

Well... for a start, The Department of Education and Skills has given us some options;

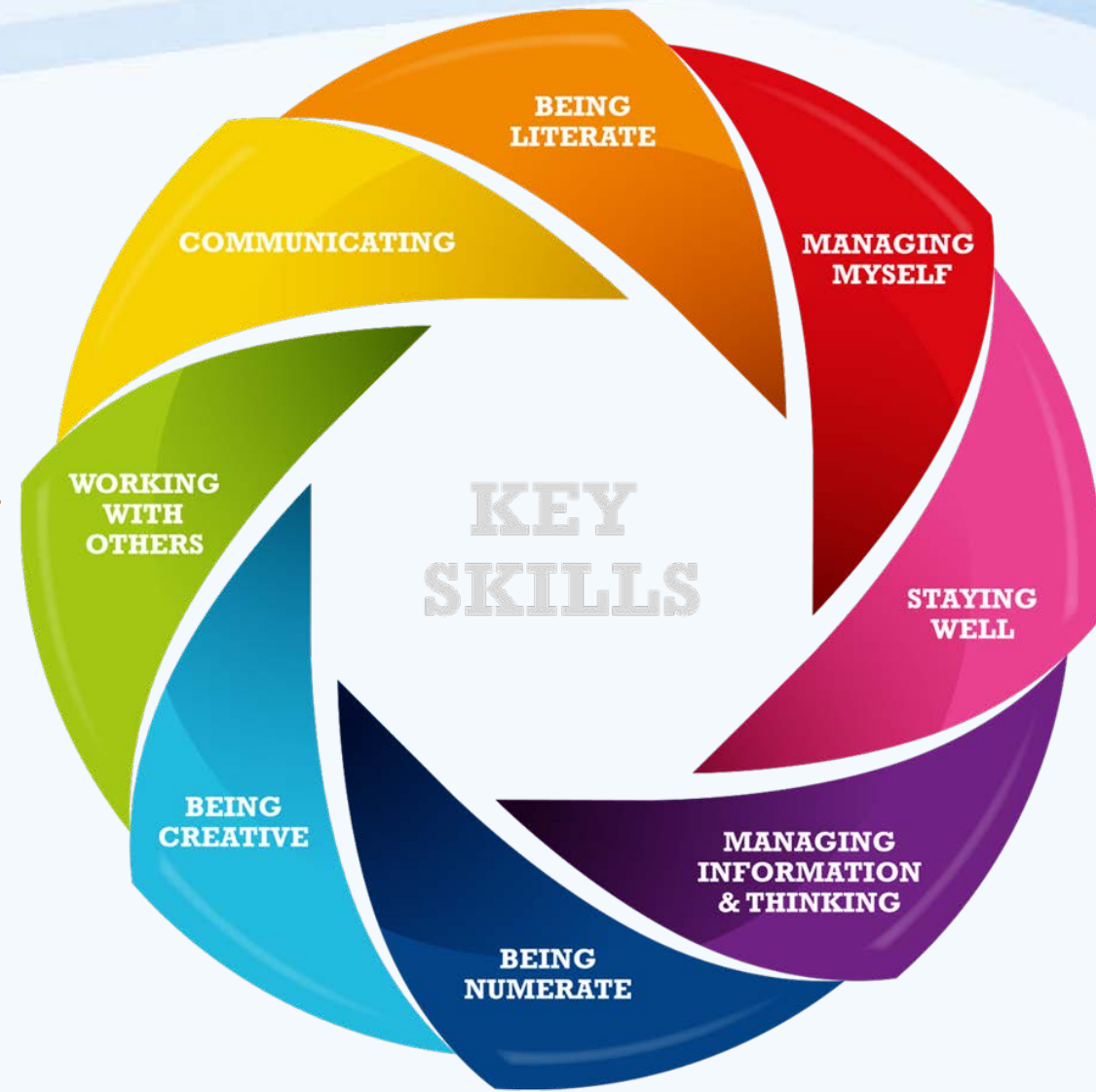
- The new Junior Cycle will place the student at the centre of the learning process.
- It allows for new ways of learning and a broader range of skills to be properly assessed.
- The new Junior Cycle has a maximum of **10 subjects** at State Exam level.

# Time line of the Changes?

- The changes started in 2017 with English, then Science and Business Studies, now this years Second Years will also study Irish, Modern Languages and Art & Design for the new Junior Cycle.
- From September 2018 all 1st year students will also study the new course in Maths, History, Geography and Music.
- By 2020 all of the Junior Cycle subjects in our school (including Religion) will have new specifications laying out the framework of what we should learn over the years.

# New Junior Cycle (NJC)

- 8 Key Skills to be taught by all teachers in all subjects and Short Courses
- Should be included in all subject planning documents – already explicit in new Subject & Short Course Specifications
- If you are teaching an old syllabus, you are still required to teach Key Skills





# 24 Statements of Learning (SoL)

- A subject will only be able to cover some of these Statements

## Statements of Learning

The student	
1	communicates effectively using a variety of means in a range of contexts in L1*
2	listens, speaks, reads and writes in L2* and one other language at a level of proficiency that is appropriate to her or his ability
3	creates, appreciates and critically interprets a wide range of texts
4	creates and presents artistic works and appreciates the process and skills involved
5	has an awareness of personal values and an understanding of the process of moral decision making
6	appreciates and respects how diverse values, beliefs and traditions have contributed to the communities and culture in which she/he lives
7	values what it means to be an active citizen, with rights and responsibilities in local and wider contexts
8	values local, national and international heritage, understands the importance of the relationship between past and current events and the forces that drive change
9	understands the origins and impacts of social, economic, and environmental aspects of the world around her/him
10	has the awareness, knowledge, skills, values and motivation to live sustainably

# Wellbeing: Why does Wellbeing matter?

- Wellbeing will cross the three years of junior cycle and build on substantial work already taking place in St Angela's College to support our students' wellbeing.
- It will enable our students to build life skills and develop a strong sense of connectedness to the school and to their community.
- 400 hours of Wellbeing over three years..... Which includes, C.S.P.E, Physical Education and S.P.H.E
- In St Angela's College we have introduced a "Learning to Learn" module in Years 1 and 2 as part of the wellbeing programme.... This aims to;
  - ✓ Help students to form a secure identity in the school
  - ✓ Develop resilience and coping skill for when things go wrong
  - ✓ Understand the type of learner they are and adapt accordingly
  - ✓ Appreciate the school's ethos and values.



# Wellbeing: Why does Wellbeing matter?



# Assessment: Classroom Based Assessment

By participating in a CBA, your Child will be involved in the following:

- Reviewing Feedback to identify what they have achieved and done well in.
  - Planning what to do next
  - Viewing peer samples
  - Setting personal goals
  - Redrafting work
  - Giving feedback to others
- 
- Classroom based assessment take place in 2nd and 3rd Year.
  - Grades in Classroom based Assessment are awarded based on Features of Quality and following a SLAR meeting. There are no corresponding marks.

## Features of Quality

- Exceptional
- Above expectations
- In line with expectations
- Yet to meet expectations

## Medical Certificate





# What is the Assessment Task?

The Assessment Task will be completed in 3<sup>rd</sup> Year

The Assessment Task will be completed in class time under the supervision of the teacher and will be sent to the S.E.C for marking along with the script for that subject in the state certified exams. It is worth 10% of the final grade in a subject.



A, B, C, D, E grades are now being replaced by descriptors

- Distinction
- Higher Merit
- Merit
- Achieved
- Partially Achieved

# Assessment: Individual subjects

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

- English, Irish and Maths are specified at Higher and Ordinary Levels
- All other subjects will be specified at a Common Level
- Duration of 2 hours or less



A, B, C, D, E grades are now being replaced by descriptors

- Distinction
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- Partially Achieved

# Reporting

JUNIOR CYCLE PROFILE OF ACHIEVEMENT		2017	
John Kelly		DOB: 21 June 2001	
<b>STATE CERTIFIED FINAL EXAMINATIONS</b>		<b>Classroom-Based Assessments - English</b>	
Examination number: 456085			
English (O)	Distinction	Oral Communication	Exceptional
		Collection of Texts	Exceptional
<b>Irish (O) <sup>(2)</sup></b>		<b>Classroom-Based Assessments - Short Courses</b>	
Mathematics (H)	B	Coding	Above expectations
History (H)	C	Physical Education	Exceptional
Geography (H)	D		
French (O) <sup>(2)</sup>	C		
Business Studies (H)	B		
Science (H)	B		

## Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

- This replaces the old Junior Certificate that students received in September.
- Results from the S.E.C
- The Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement will report on achievement across all elements of assessment including Classroom Based Assessments...

# Reporting

## Other Areas of Learning Section

- Provides an opportunity for schools to comment on student achievement, participation and progress in other aspects of learning that took place between first year and third:
- Attendance, Personal Development, Engagement with a school's, individual programme and Whole School Initiatives

# Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

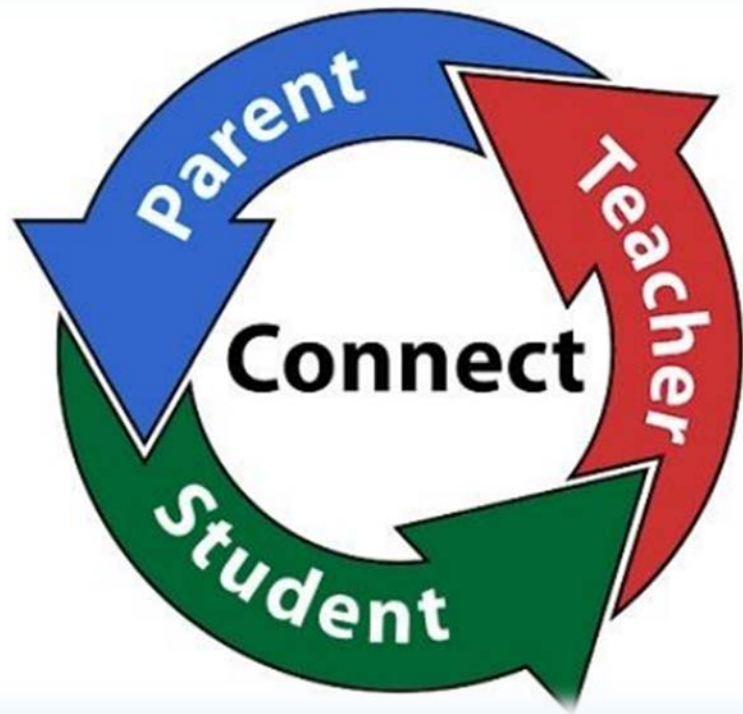
## Some Suggested Areas to reflect upon:

- School initiatives/activities
- Reflective journal
- Green Schools Committee
- School Sports Team Membership
- Debating
- Library
- Clubs / Society
- Significant Learning Experiences from specific Subjects...

These Activities support the 8 Key Skills mentioned earlier and must be part of school life – not community involvement



# Parental Support – How to support your child in their Junior Cycle Journey!



Recognise that your child will have lots of different types of homework:

For Example; Active Research, project work, presentations, group work, and using digital technologies.

- Listen discuss and support your child's ideas, encourage them to reflect on their learning because this is a huge part of the Junior Cycle.
- Get them to practice their CBAs in front of you, ask them what kind of feedback they are getting and how they learn best in different subjects.
- Encourage them to take responsibility for their own learning.

# Finally..... The Purpose of the new Junior Cycle is to:

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





# Useful links

[www.curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/](http://www.curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/)

[www.jct.ie/](http://www.jct.ie/)

[www.ncca.ie/en/junior-cycle](http://www.ncca.ie/en/junior-cycle)



# *Questions*

