

New Junior Cycle Jargon

JCPA – Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement. This is the certificate that students receive at the end of their Junior Cycle. This includes their final state exam grades; their 2 CBAs for each subject; and achievements in other areas of learning.

CBA – Classroom Based Assessment. Students will participate in one in 2nd year and one in 3rd year. These are marked by teachers, at a common level, using specific 'Features of Quality' determined by the Dept. of Education. CBAs will replace summer exams for 2nd years.

Features of Quality – These are the criteria that are used to assess and mark the CBAs.

Assessment Task – This is an exam that students sit immediately after the 3rd Year CBA. It accounts for 10% of the final grade in all subjects and it is corrected by SEC.

Final Assessment – The examination that students sit in June of their third year. It is corrected by the State Examinations Commission (SEC). The maximum number of subjects students can take is 10.

Grading Descriptors – these are the words / phrases that are used to indicate the standard achieved by the student.

CBAs	Final Assessment
Exceptional	Distinction (100-90%)
Above Expectations	Higher Merit (89-75%)
In Line With Expectations	Merit (74-55%)
Yet To Meet Expectations	Achieved (54-40%)
	Partially Achieved (39-20%)
	Not Graded (19-0%)

Other Areas of Learning – These are areas of learning outside of the formal curriculum that students engage with e.g. Sport, Student Council, debating, community work, fundraising, creative writing, drama etc.

Short Courses – These are educational programmes that students can undertake instead of the traditional subjects for example Digital Literacy; Chinese etc. Students can study 9 subject and 2 short courses or 8 subjects and 4 short courses.

Self-Assessment – A practice whereby students are facilitated to reflect on their own learning and take responsibility for improving on it, based on teacher feedback.

Peer-Assessment – A practice whereby students in pairs, or small groups, reflect on their own learning and take responsibility for improving on it, based on teacher feedback.

Wellbeing – This is about being physically, emotionally and mentally healthy where students' self-esteem is high and they feel capable, confident and positive.

Skills – There are 8 key skills which underpin all of the new Junior Cycle curriculum. These are: Being Literate; Managing Myself; Staying Well; Managing Information and Thinking; Being Numerate; Being Creative; Working with Others; and Communicating.

