

Information leaflet for 2nd year parents

Re: New Junior Cycle

The Junior Cycle has changed and will continue to change over the next few years. At the end of three years in St Mary's CBS, your son will receive a Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA).

In the current academic year 2018/2019, 2nd year students will see changes in English, Business Studies and Science. The biggest change will be seen in the awarding of grades. These three subjects will no longer be graded with A, B, C etc. They will be awarded with the following grade descriptors:

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

Your son will complete two Classroom Based Assessments (CBA's) in English, Science and Business studies. One will be completed in 2nd year and the other in 3rd year. The following will be used as grade descriptors in marking the CBA's:

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

In 3rd year, before the State Exams in June, students will complete an assessment task which will be worth 10% of their final grade for these three subjects. This task is completed in class but will be sent to the State Examinations Commission to be externally marked. The JCPA that your son receives in September 2020 will contain:

1. The student's achievements in the state-certified final examinations (inclusive of the Assessment Task)
2. The student's achievements in the Classroom-Based Assessments in subjects
3. The student's achievement in Other Areas of learning

*In the ‘other areas of learning’ section the school has flexibility to report on other learning experiences and events that the student has participated in outside of the schools’ junior cycle programme: Student engagement with co-curricular or extra-curricular activities offered by the school such as engaging in a science fair, participation in the school’s sporting activities or debating. In this section of the JCPA, the school may also include reference to student engagement in learning experiences that form part of the formal timetabled curriculum but that are not reported on in other sections of the JCPA, for example: engagement with elements of the Physical Education (PE).

Key dates to be aware of:

March - May 2019:

- Business: 12th March – 20th April. CBA 1 – Business in Action.
- English: 29th April – 20th May. CBA 1 – Oral Communication
- Science: 20th April – 18th May. CBA1 – Experimental investigation

November 2019 – January 2020:

- Business: Mon 12th Nov – Fri 7th Dec. CBA 2 - Presentation
- English: CBA2 - Collection of Texts Fri 30th Nov
- Science: Fri 7th Dec – Fri 25th Jan. CBA2 - Science in Society Investigation

December 2019 – February 2020:

- Business: latest date 14th December - AT Based on CBA2
- English: Mon 3rd – Fri 7th Dec - AT Based on CBA2
- Science: Latest date: Fri 1st Feb - AT Based on CBA2

**Dates are approximate and may change slightly*

It is essential that your son applies himself to completing his CBA’s and assessment tasks which follow. These grade descriptors will appear on his JCPA in September 2020. Further information is available on www.education.ie and www.cirriculumonline.ie