





Comeragh College
1st Year
Guidance Parents
Information Evening
4th May 2023



Items for Discussion

- Junior Cycle Subject Levels-Higher, Ordinary or Common
- Information on expectations for English, Irish and Maths levels
- Junior Cycle Grading and Leaving Certificate Grading
- CBAs- Classroom Based Assessments for Junior Cycle
- Changing subject level
- Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement
- Learning for exams



Junior Cycle Subject Levels

- Students study all subjects at Common Level in Year 1
- Junior Cycle English, Irish and Maths are studied at either **Higher or Ordinary Level** from Year 2
- All other subjects are studied at **Common Level**
- English, Irish and Maths classes are split into Higher and Ordinary Level for 2nd Year
- All other subject classes will remain the same



Junior Cycle Subject Levels

How and who decides if a student is suited to Higher or Ordinary Level? The following is taken into consideration by the student, parent and teacher:

- The student's overall ability linked to their entrance exams and primary school data
- The results the student has been achieving in class and term tests
- The student's ability to complete homework to the expected standard
- The student's understanding in class
- The student's motivation to achieve
- Attendance



Junior Cycle Subject Levels

Next Steps:

- Parents will receive a Microsoft Form asking you to choose the level which you would like your child to do for English, Irish and Maths
- Teachers will also be asked which level they feel students are suited to
- We will look at test results, abilities, summer exam results
- If there is a query we will contact you to talk through the options



English at Junior Cycle

Higher Level English for Junior Cycle

- Mandatory study of Shakespearean Drama (The Merchant of Venice 2024-2026)
- More detailed study and analysis of texts and answers required.

Ordinary Level English for Junior Cycle

- Do not have to study Shakespearean Drama



English at Junior Cycle

Student suitability for Higher Level English

- A student should be achieving 55%-75 % in all tests and at least 50 % in the summer exams to be suitable for Higher Level.
- Students are recommended to read frequently to enhance their vocabulary which will benefit them in all subjects.
- Students need to be fully participating and engaging with the curriculum which may require extra reading and note taking at home.
- Attendance critical for CBAs to be completed. CBA1 = Oral Presentation. CBA2 = Collection of Texts .
- Substantial difference in written work required by for HL students. More analytical and in-depth answers required.



Irish at Junior Cycle

Both levels must complete a Punann / Portfolio as part of CBA1.

Higher Level Irish for Junior Cycle

- Compulsory study 5 poems, 1 drama, 1 short story, 1 novel – which are examined on the paper.
- Writing tasks are more detailed / require more analysis.
- Grammar is examined.

Ordinary Level Irish for Junior Cycle

- Study literature as part of the CBA's but it is not examined on the paper.



Irish at Junior Cycle

- Students should be achieving upwards of 55% in all tests and at least 50 % in the summer exams to be suitable for Higher Level.
- Students are recommended to revise daily to build the vocab necessary.



Maths at Junior Cycle

Higher Level Maths for Junior Cycle

- Critical thinking, reasoning and problem solving are crucial skills
- Constant revision of notes and practice required in order to succeed at this level.
- Ability to apply skills to problem solving questions required.
- Same topics are covered at HL and OL but higher level go into more detail.

Ordinary Level Maths for Junior Cycle

- Consists of a wide range of topics
- Students to apply themselves at Junior Cycle are more likely to succeed at senior cycle OL Maths, which most college courses and apprenticeships need.



Maths at Junior Cycle

Student suitability for Higher Level Maths

- A student should be achieving 60% - 70% in all tests and at least 60% in the summer exams to be suitable for Higher Level
- Other expectations:
- All homework must be attempted every evening and to the required standard.
- Students need to be able to learn independently.



Junior Cycle Grading

Grade	Percentage Range
Distinction	90-100%
Higher Merit	75-89%
Merit	55-74%
Achieved	40-54%
Partially Achieved	20-39%
No Grade/ NG	0-19%



Leaving Certificate Grades and Points

Higher Level Grades	Higher Level Points	% Bands	Ordinary Level Grades	Ordinary Level Points
H1	100	90-100%	O1	56
H2	88	80-89%	O2	46
H3	77	70-79%	O3	37
H4	66	60-69%	O4	28
H5	56	50-59%	O5	20
H6	46	40-49%	O6	12
H7	37	30-39%	O7	0
H8	0	0-29%	O8	0

- There are 25 bonus points for H6 or higher in Maths.
- 6 subjects are counted for Leaving Cert Points
- Students study 7 subjects
- All subjects are studied at either Higher or Ordinary Level
(Irish & Maths have a Foundation level also)



Leaving Certificate & Employer Expectations

- It is important to understand at Junior Cycle the importance of the Leaving Certificate as a pathway to University, Training and Employment.
- Employer expectations are increasing in both soft and hard skills
- Apprenticeship entry requirements now include certain grades in Maths e.g. O5 or O3 being asked for entry into Electrician training
- Many new training programmes available including Laboratory Apprenticeship- entry requirements 250 Leaving Cert points
- Getting into a good learning routine for Junior Cycle is vital to prepare for the Leaving Certificate programme



Junior Cycle Grading Results Graph

Subject	Level	Year	Total Candidates	Distinction	H Merit	Merit	Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Graded
English	A	2019	51,226	2.0	18.8	50.7	22.6	5.4	0.3
English	A	2022	54,083	2.1	18.1	51.0	23.3	5.1	0.3
English	G	2019	12,353	2.3	25.2	47.6	17.9	6.0	0.9
English	G	2022	12,166	2.1	22.0	47.5	20.8	6.9	0.7
Business Studies	C	2019	36,267	1.9	27.4	48.4	15.5	6.3	0.6
Business Studies	C	2022	37,341	3.3	22.0	43.2	21.6	8.7	1.1
Science	C	2019	59,543	2.0	25.4	49.0	17.2	5.9	0.5
Science	C	2022	62,554	3.7	25.5	41.7	19.3	8.9	0.9
Irish	A	2022	29,540	2.6	20.6	42.2	23.9	9.3	1.4
Irish	G	2022	24,732	2.3	17.9	44.7	24.2	9.5	1.3
Gaeilge T1	A	2022	2,599	3.6	23	47.9	20.9	4	0.5
Gaeilge T1	G	2022	136	2.9	15.4	47.1	23.5	8.8	2.2
Mathematics	A	2022	40,275	3.6	22.6	44.5	21.3	7.4	0.6
Mathematics	G	2022	25,699	3.3	31.1	42.3	16.3	6.7	0.5
History	C	2022	56,859	2.8	22.6	45.1	21.4	7.3	0.7
Geography	C	2022	58,608	2.5	23.5	46.3	20.4	6.9	0.4



JUNIOR CYCLE PROFILE OF ACHIEVEMENT



State Certified Final Examination

Irish L2 (H)	Merit
English (H)	Merit
Mathematics (H)	Higher Merit
History (C)	Merit
Geography (C)	Distinction
Spanish (C)	Higher Merit
Business Studies (C)	Merit
Science (C)	Higher Merit
Visual Art (C)	Merit

Classroom-Based Assessments - Subjects

Irish L2	Language Portfolio	Not Reported
	Communicative task	In Line with Expectations
English	Oral Communication	In Line with Expectations
	The Collection of the Student Texts	Not Reported
Mathematics	Mathematical Investigation	Above Expectations
	Statistical Investigation	Not Reported
History	The Past in My Place	Not Reported
	A Life in Time	Not Reported
Geography	Geography in the news	Not Reported
	My geography	In Line with Expectations
Spanish	Oral Communication	Above Expectations
	The Student Language Portfolio	Not Reported
Business Studies	Business in action	Above Expectations
	Presentation	Not Reported
Science	Extended Experimental Investigation	Not Reported
	Science in Society Investigation	Exceptional
Visual Art	From Process to Realisation	Not Reported
	Communicate and Reflect	In Line with Expectations

Other Areas of Learning



X was a member of the school's basketball team where he committed to team training & competition. He developed his tactical competencies and skills.

X took part in a school open night. This experience developed his communication skills as he spoke with parents & potential students.

X received a positive behaviour award in Second Year for his consistent compliance with the schools positive behaviour policy which contributes to a better learning environment for all.

X took part in a JCSP bake sale in aid of Ukraine. This helped develop the skills of empathy and compassion for other people while also show casing his baking skills

Classroom-Based Assessments - Short Courses

Wellbeing

CSPE (Civic, Social, Political Education)

SPHE (Social, Personal, Health Education)

Physical Education

Other Areas of Wellbeing



The Framework for Junior Cycle provides for an area of learning in Junior Cycle called Wellbeing. Over the three years of Junior Cycle, the learners engaged with Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE), Physical Education (PE), and Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE)



CBA's Classroom Based Assessments

- Classroom-Based Assessments will provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their understanding and skills in a way which would not be possible in a formal examination.
- The tasks will cover a broad range of activities including oral presentations, written work of different types, practical or designing and making activities, artistic performances, scientific experiments, projects or other suitable tasks.
- Assessment Task: Worth 10% of final grade in most subjects. This is a written assessment that assesses what students have learned, and asks about skills that they have developed, from their experience of having completed the second CBA.

Interactive 2nd Year Classroom-based Assessment Calendar

- NCCA CBA Dates
- Each school can amend the calendar based on context, preference and access to resources.

Week 1 22 nd August	Week 2 29 th August	Week 3 5 th September	Week 4 12 th September	Week 5 19 th September	Week 6 28 th September	Week 7 26 th October	Week 8 3 rd October	Week 9 10 th October
Week 10 17 th October	Week 11 24 th October	October Mid-Term Break	Week 12 7 th November	Week 13 14 th November	Week 14 21 st November	Week 15 28 th November	Week 16 5 th December	Week 17 12 th December
Week 18 19 th December	Winter Break	Week 19 2 nd January	Home Economics CBA 1: Creative Textiles.					February Mid-Term
Visual Art CBA 1: From Process to Realisation.								
Geography CBA 1: Geography in the News.				English CBA 1: Oral Communication.				

Maths CBA 1: Mathematical Investigation.

Week 25 20 th February	Week 26 27 th February	Week 27 6 th March	Week 28 13 th March	Week 29 20 th March	Week 30 27 th March	Easter Break	Week 31 17 th April	Week 32 24 th April
Modern Foreign Languages CBA 1: Oral Communication.			Science CBA 1: Extended Experimental Investigation.			Engineering CBA 1: Engineering in Action.		
Week 33 1 st May	Week 34 8 th May	Week 35 15 th May	Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Student Voice and Learning Experience▪ NCCA CBA Dates & Windows▪ Access to Resources▪ Collaborative Practice▪ SLAR Meeting Dates					



Changing Subject Level

- If a student wants to change from Higher Level to Ordinary Level there is a procedure in school that needs to be followed.
- This involves input from the subject teacher, the student, the parent and the guidance counsellor.
- Firstly the student should always talk to the teacher if they are finding something difficult.
- Parents can also request to speak with the class teachers to discuss your child's progress.
- A Change of Level Form can be requested from the Guidance Counsellor.
- The set time for reviews with senior management and the guidance department are post Christmas and Summer exams.
- The student will only change level if all parties feel it is in the best interest for the student to do so.



Change of Level Application 2022/23

Student name: _____ Year: _____ Date: _____

Subject: _____ From ____ level to ____ level Teacher: _____

Teacher's comment:

Result/grade 1: ____ date: _____

Result /grade 2: ____ date: _____

Result/grade 3: ____ date: _____

Teacher signature: _____

Student's reason for request: _____

Student signature: _____

By signing above I understand that a change in level may affect points/entry requirements for my options after school.

Parent/guardian signature: _____

By signing above I understand that a change in level may affect points/entry requirements for my child's options after school.

Has the student discussed options with the guidance counsellor? Yes: ____ No: ____

Guidance counsellor signature: _____

For management use only

Change of level granted: Yes ____ No: ____

Comments: _____



Learning for Exams

- A year long process!
- Continuous checking my knowledge and understanding through looking back over work completed, testing myself
- Keeping a record of topics completed in each subject
- Knowing what I can expect to be on the exam
- Assigning time to each subject to revise and learn
- Using active study techniques to help my learning –reading through the study skills booklet again
- Developing a good learning routine



Learning for Exams

How can a Parent/Guardian help with preparing for tests?

- Checking the homework journal
- Asking about each subject-how the student is doing/what they are learning in the subject/what can they do to improve their progress in the subject
- Planning a revision routine together
- Checking the student's learning by asking questions from the book/homework/doing mini tests together/asking your child to teach you a topic
- Encouragement and belief that they can do well

Thank you for listening.