

# **ST MARY'S COLLEGE, DUNDALK**

*JUNIOR CYCLE PRESENTATION  
TO 2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR PARENTS*

*6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020*



# INTRODUCTION.

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- I. An overview of the new **Junior Cycle**.
- II. What are **Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs)** and **Assessment Tasks?**
- III. An explanation of the new **descriptors**.
- IV. How **Other Areas of Learning (OAL)** are recognised.
- V. Looking at a sample **Junior Certificate Profile of Achievement (JCPA)**.

# JUNIOR CYCLE OVERVIEW

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# STUDENTS AT THE CENTRE

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- A greater focus on skills as well as knowledge.
- Allowing students to become more actively involved in their communities and in society
- Enabling students to be more resourceful and confident learners in all aspects and stages of their lives (Lifelong learning)
- Focus on the quality of the learning that takes place



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## ACTIVE LEARNING

Continuity with primary school –  
Physically more active in the classroom

Regularly reflecting on their learning

Investigative approaches to content  
rather than being told what to do

Formative assessment – Assessment  
closer to the learning moment



# YOUR CHILD'S PROGRAMME FOR LEARNING

<b>Core Subjects Higher/Ordinary Level</b>	<b>Core Subjects Common Level</b>	<b>Core Subjects Non - Exam</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•English</li><li>•Irish</li><li>•Maths</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Science</li><li>•History</li><li>•Geography</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Religious Education</li><li>•Wellbeing</li><li>•SPHE</li><li>•CSPE</li><li>•PE</li></ul>

# YOUR CHILD'S PROGRAMME FOR LEARNING

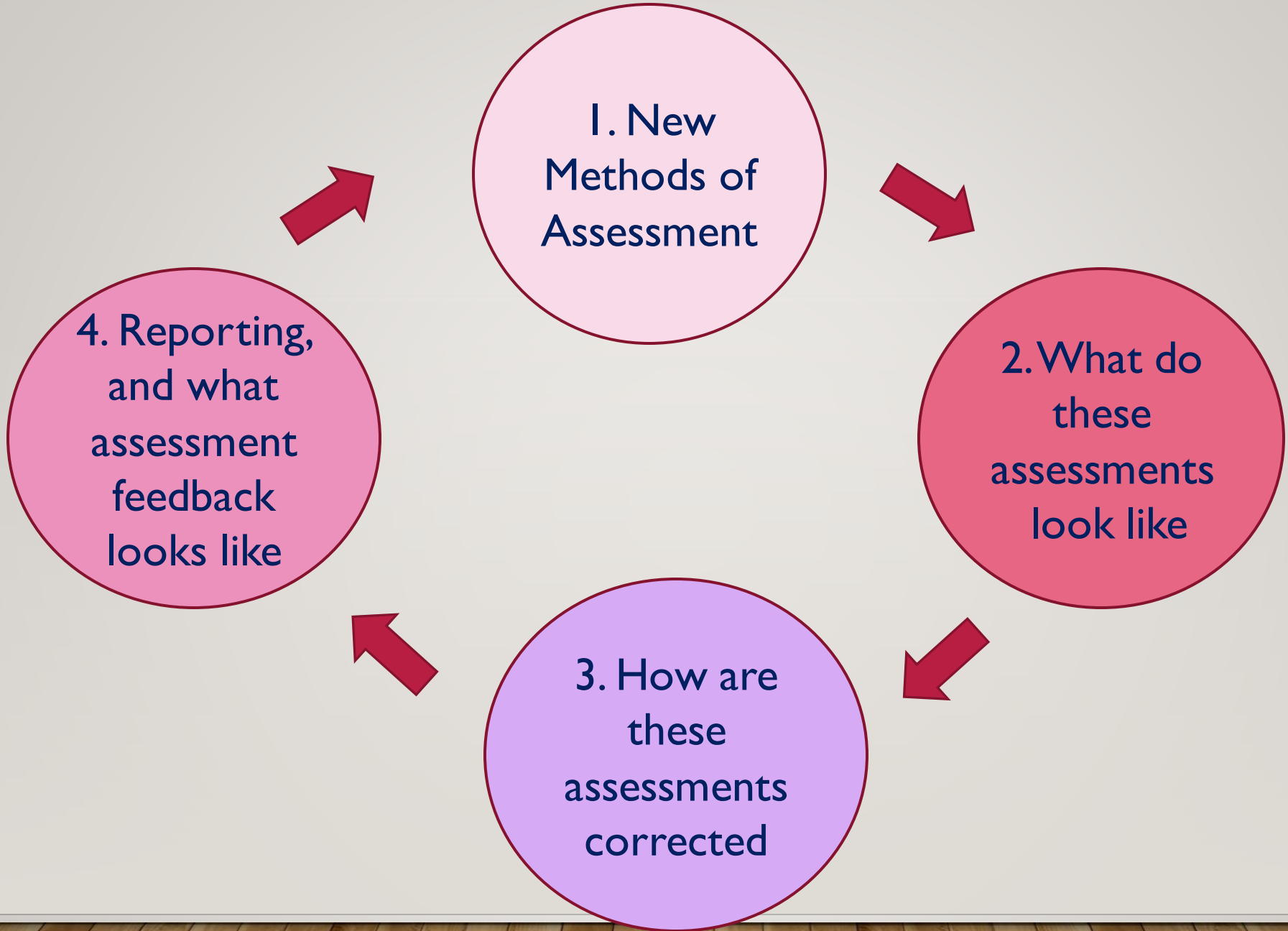
<b>Option Subjects Common Level</b>	<b>Option Subjects Higher/Ordinary Level</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Modern Foreign Languages (French/German)</li><li>•Business Studies</li><li>•Visual Art</li><li>•Music</li><li>•Home Economics</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Technical Graphics</li><li>•Materials Technology Wood</li><li>•Technology</li></ul>

# **CLASSROOM BASED ASSESSMENTS & ASSESSMENT TASKS.**

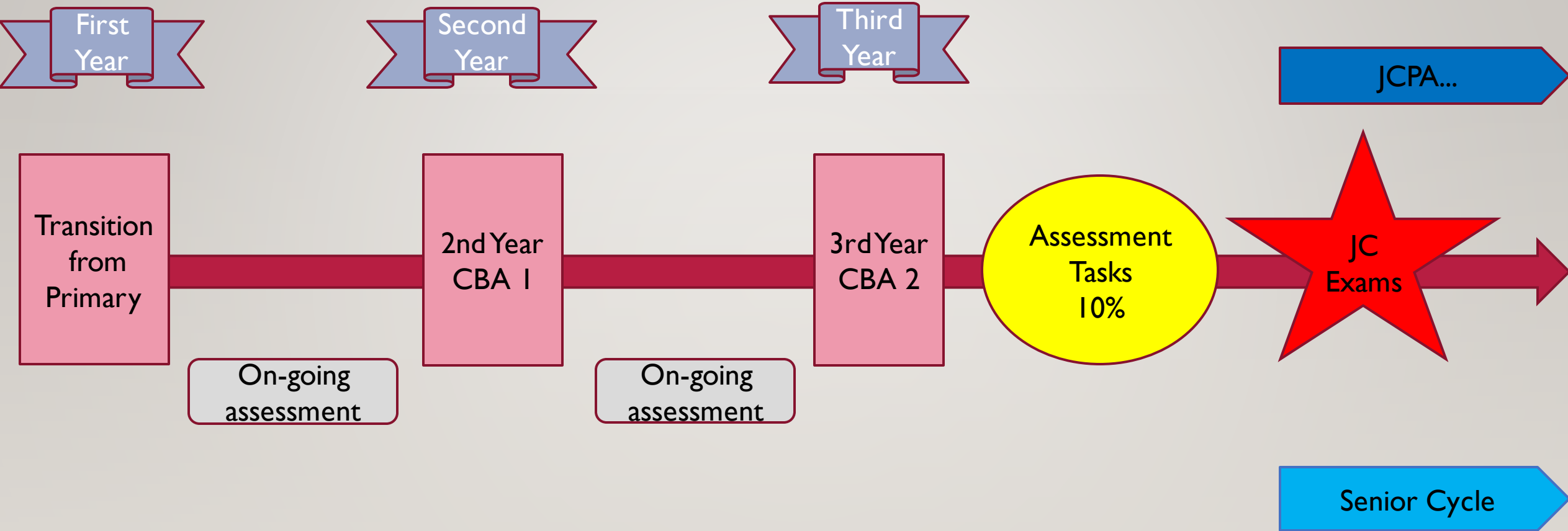
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# - The Junior Certificate Students Journey -



# WHAT ARE C.B.A.S FOR?

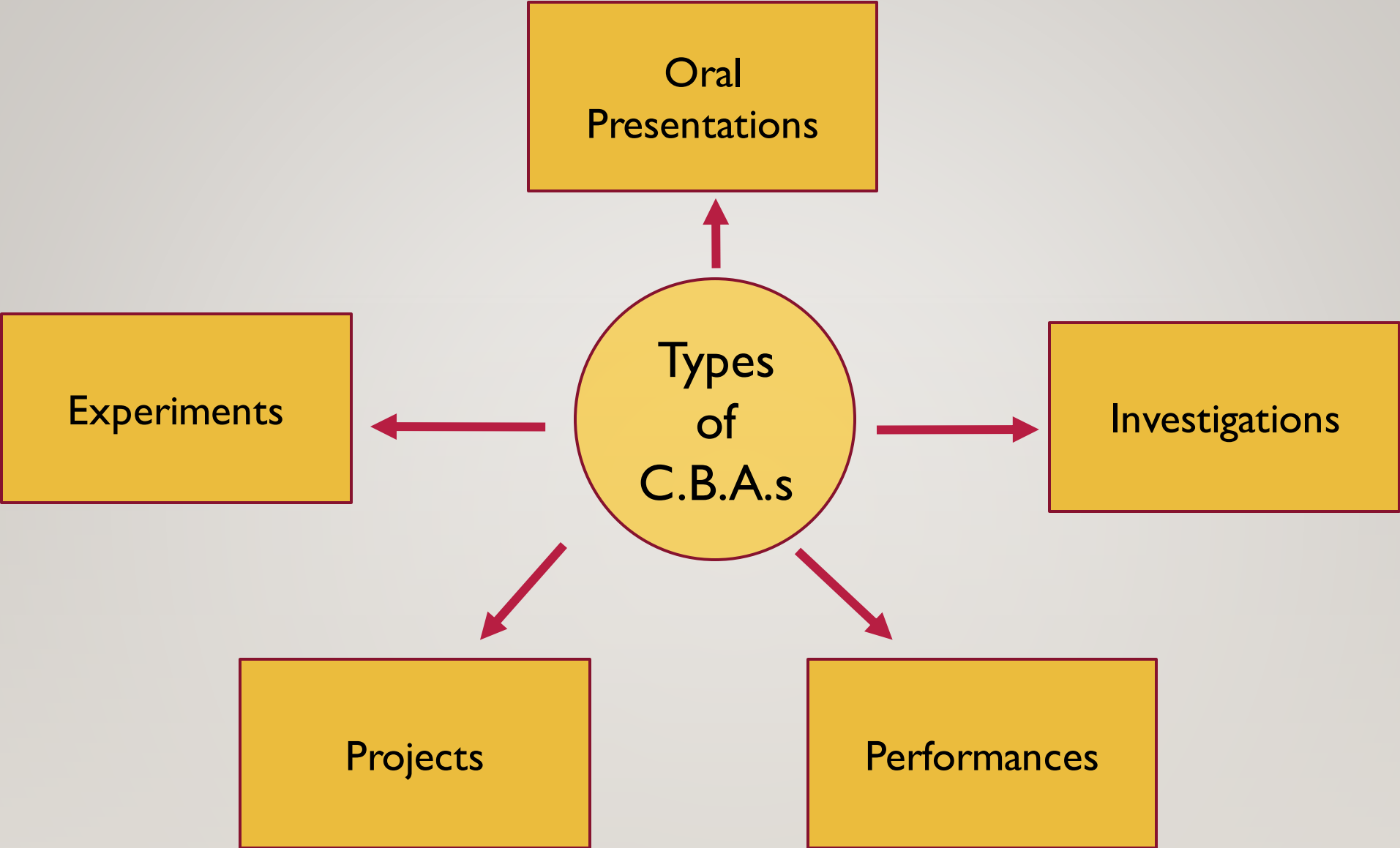
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CBA's were introduced so to allow students to demonstrate their skills and their ability to apply these skills in ways not possible in an externally assessed examination, and to show their understanding of ideas.

# I. CLASSROOM BASED ASSESSMENTS – C.B.A.S

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- CBA's are tasks that are completed in the classroom under the guidance of the classroom teacher. One in second year and one in third year.
- Teacher will select a task from the CBA from a menu.
- CBA's are undertaken over a set 'window' of time.
- CBA's will replace some current in-house assessment events, e.g. Easter Exams.
  - *Adapted from 'Framework for Junior Cycle 2015'.*





English: An Oral Presentation  
Students choose a topic that is of interest to them.  
Research that topic.  
Choose an oral presentation style.  
Give an oral presentation to peers.  
CBA 2 Collection of Texts

Business Studies: A Research Project.  
4 areas of activity.  
Conduct Research  
Evaluate information  
Develop an action plan  
Report Findings  
CBA 2: Oral Presentation.

Science: An Experiment.- Report  
Formulate a scientific experiment to test their hypothesis  
Analyse the data & reflect on the data.  
CBA2: Research project

MFL: Oral Presentation  
Choose an area of interest  
Choose a presentation style  
Give the presentation to peers.  
CBA 2 Language Portfolio

History: Poster Display  
Research a historical theme related to locality or family history

Visual Art: Sketchpad to research and explore themes (NNCA)  
Show the development of their ideas through the artistic process.  
'From Process to Realisation.'  
Show all annotations and reflections

Maths: Investigation & Report.  
Mathematical problem solving cycle.  
Research a question about the world they have around them

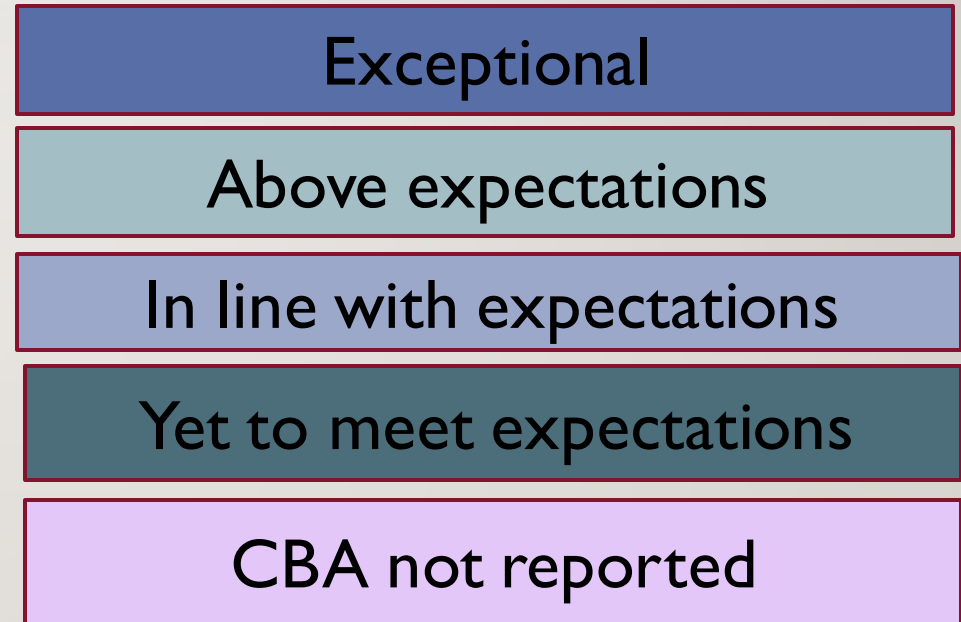
Geography: A Report  
Geography in the News  
A recent event of significance on a local, national or global scale.

Music: Compose 2 pieces of music.  
Any format.

Home Ec – Creative Textiles:  
Report on the process.

# HOW ARE C.B.A.S ASSESSED?

- Second Year - C.B.A. 1
- Third Year - C.B.A. 2
- Following each CBA the subject teacher will review each students work, and following consultation with their subject departments issue a descriptor based on their level of engagement with their CBA.



# CBA's in action...have a look...

<http://bit.ly/CBAinAction>



# WHAT CBA'S DOES MY CHILD DO IN SECOND YEAR?

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**English Science Business  
Studies French German  
Art Maths Music History  
Geography Home  
Economics**

- Window 1 – English, Science, Business Studies, French, German, Art, Maths, History, Geography (06.01.2020 – 15.05.2020).
- Window 2 – Music (15.05.2020).
- Window 3 – Home Economics (04.11.2019 – 15.05.2020).

**CBA 1 and 2 in Irish is carried out in  
3rd Year...**



**We are moving from high stakes  
exams, towards continuous  
assessment**

# WHERE / HOW ARE CBA'S REPORTED?

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- Following the subject teacher placing a 'descriptor' on a student's work, it will be reported home and be added to their...

## **'Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement' (JCPA)**

- Following the completion of the CBA's in each subject, there is the  
**Assessment Task.**
- The Assessment Task will be related to the learning outcomes on which the second Classroom-Based Assessment is based. This Assessment Task is sent to the State Examinations Commission (SEC) for marking along with the final examination. A.T's occur in 3rd year.

## 2. ASSESSMENT TASKS – AT'S IN THE CLASSROOM

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- This written Assessment Task (A.T.) is completed in third year.
- It requires students to demonstrate an understanding of their work in **CBA 1** and **CBA 2**.
- The A.T. is completed in the classroom under the subject teacher's supervision and guidance.
- The A.T. is then sent to the State Exams Commission in Athlone, Co Westmeath, for correction with the exam for that subject in the state examinations in June.

# AT AND THE JC STATE EXAMINATIONS...

- The AT is worth 10% of the grade in any subject, so it is of vital importance they are completed to the best of a student's ability.
- Awarded by the State Examinations Commission:

Distinction (90-100%)

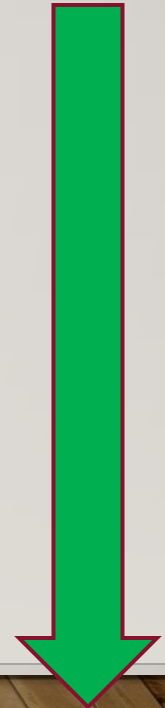
Higher Merit (75-90%)

Merit (55-75%)

Achieved (40-55%)

Partially Achieved (20-40%)

Not Graded (0-20%)



# OTHER AREAS OF LEARNING.

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## OTHER AREAS OF LEARNING (OAL).

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The New Junior Cycle seeks to formally recognise student achievement in areas of school life, outside of the established curriculum.

## WHAT ARE OTHER AREAS OF LEARNING (OAL)?

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‘OALs record student achievement, involvement and participation across a broad range of areas of learning through in-school activities in Junior Cycle.’

# WHAT ARE OTHER AREAS OF LEARNING (OAL)?

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- Students should identify 3 – 5 OALs, which are written up in the third person.
- OALs highlight activities where the student led, participated, represented or attended an event as part of the college community.
- Activities participated in **outside** of college are not allowed to be considered.

# LINKING OALs TO KEY SKILLS.

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- Through the student's active participation in OALs he/she has developed a range of skills and increased his/her learning.
- The student must link the OAL to a key skill which he/she has developed.
- The student will be supported by you the parent and the college in writing up their OALs.

# EXAMPLES OF SOURCES OF OALs.

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- Specific awards won for sporting or cultural achievements.
- Participation in extra-curricular events / activities.
- Student leadership activities.
- Taking part in the organisation of a charity / social outreach event.
- Representing the college in college community events.
- Participation / organisation of a college event.
- Participated in school's Wellbeing programme.



## EXAMPLES OF WRITTEN-UP OALS (ACTIVITY & *SKILL*)

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1. Claire was a member of the college Gaelic team where she represented the college at competition level reaching the semi-finals of the Leinster Cup. *This experience helped her develop her ability to work in a team and how to set and achieve personal goals and targets.*

## EXAMPLES OF WRITTEN-UP OALS (ACTIVITY & *SKILL*)

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2. Paul won a class prize in First Year for his Home Economics project. *This project taught him the skills of research and how to think creatively. It also taught him to bring an idea from concept to realisation.*

# JUNIOR CYCLE PROFILE OF ACHIEVEMENT.

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MARY BRENNAN

DOB: 21 June 2001

**STATE CERTIFIED  
FINAL EXAMINATIONS**

Examination number: 459066

English (O) Distinction

Irish (O) A

Mathematics (H) B

History (H) C

Geography (H) D

French (O) B

Religion (H) B

Science (H) C

Business Studies (H) C

Technology (H) A

**Classroom-Based-Assessments**

Oral Communication	Above expectations
Collection of texts	In line with expectations

**Other Areas of Learning**

- Mary participated in SciFest. Her project examined the bacteria build up on different types of toothbrushes. She gathered, recorded, organised and evaluated the information.
- Mary was a member of the school basketball team where she committed to the team training and competitions and developed her tactical competencies and skills.
- Mary worked effectively with others in a group action project to raise awareness of the homeless crisis and to promote the work of PATH.
- Mary took part in the Christmas shoebox appeal. She promoted the cause by the creative use of digital technology and was responsible for collecting the shoeboxes from her class.

**Principal**

Ms. O'Donnell

**Yearhead**

Ms. Bennett

**Roll No. 634510**

Scoil Chríost Rí,  
Borris Road,  
Portlaoise



This JCPA recognises and records achievements in Junior Cycle

# THE JUNIOR CERTIFICATE PROFILE OF ACHIEVEMENT (JCPA).



Junior Cycle subject results. Subjects studied under the new Junior Cycle will have descriptors rather than grades.

STATE CERTIFIED FINAL EXAMINATIONS	
English (O)	Distinction
Irish (O)	A
Mathematics (H)	B
History (H)	C
Geography (H)	D
French (O)	B
Religion (H)	B
Science (H)	C
Business Studies (H)	C
Technology (H)	A

# STATE CERTIFIED FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Examination number: 459066

English (O)

Distinction

Irish (O)

A

Mathematics (H)

B

History (H)

C



# Junior Cycle CBA Results.

The CBA descriptor reflects how the student performs against expectation.



**STATE CERTIFIED FINAL EXAMINATIONS**

Examination number: 459066

<b>English (O)</b>	Distinction
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**Classroom-Based-Assessments**

<b>Oral Communication</b>	Above expectations
<b>Collection of texts</b>	In line with expectations

Junior Cycle OALs.  
Each OAL describes  
the activity involved  
and the skills  
acquired.

## Other Areas of Learning

- Mary participated in SciFest. Her project examined the bacteria build up on different types of toothbrushes. She gathered, recorded, organised and evaluated the information.
- Mary was a member of the school basketball team where she committed to the team training and competitions and developed her tactical competencies and skills.
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**JUNIOR CYCLE PROFILE OF ACHIEVEMENT 2018**

MARY BRENNAN DOB: 21 June 2001

STATE CERTIFIED FINAL EXAMINATIONS Examination number: 43906

Classroom-Based Assessments

Subject	Grade
English (2)	Distinction
Math (2)	A
Mathematics (2)	B
History (2)	C
Geography (2)	D
French (2)	B
Religion (2)	B
Science (2)	C
Business Studies (2)	C
Technology (2)	A

**Other Areas of Learning**

- Mary participated in SciFest. Her project examined the bacteria build up on different types of toothbrushes. She gathered, recorded, organised and evaluated the information.
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Principal: Ms. O'Donnell  
Headteacher: Ms. Bennett  
Roll No. 624510  
Social Contact Pt. Bally Road, Pydbrook

The JCPR recognises and records achievements in Junior Cycle

# 2ND YEAR HOUSEKEEPING.

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- Homework: Learning homework / Quality of homework.
- Monitoring & signing of journal.
- 'Resilience Academy'.
- Scotland trip.
- Uniform: Presenting well in school / jackets.