



Cross & Passion College, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare

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## Junior Cycle School Based Assessments 2020

*Arrangements for students in 3<sup>rd</sup> Year of Junior Cycle in Cross and Passion College*

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The Minister for Education and Skills Joe McHugh TD announced (Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020) revised arrangements for this year's Junior Cycle.

Under the revised arrangements and in light of the exceptional circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the work and achievement of third year Junior Cycle students will be recognised with a **state certificate** from the Department of Education and Skills early in the 2020/2021 school year.

As soon as possible after the end of the current school year, students will receive a written **school report** on their learning achievements in each subject.

### **Assessment arrangements**

The assessment of students' learning achievements in each subject will be based on the teacher's professional knowledge of each student's learning.

Teachers will use a range of evidence to inform their assessment of students' achievements. These will include:

- Evidence available from assignments, tests, tasks journals, projects, practical and other work completed over the course of second year and third year
- Classroom-Based Assessments completed in second year and third year, where relevant
- School-designed examinations, tasks, projects, assignments, essay style questions, presentations, or other tasks chosen by the teacher from the range of approaches agreed at school level to be completed during the **Assessment Window from May 11<sup>th</sup> to May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020**.

Our Junior Cycle students come from a wide range of backgrounds and have a wide range of individual interests and needs. Subject specifications developed by the NCCA, have been designed to be as universal as is feasible, providing meaningful and valuable learning opportunities for all students. This includes ensuring that the learning opportunities are as accessible as possible to students with additional educational needs.

Therefore, it is fitting that our assessment mechanisms will be as universal as is feasible. Subject Departments will design assessments that are as universal and as accessible as possible. In addition, there will be provision for reasonable accommodation in the assessment of our 3<sup>rd</sup> year students, to be devised internally.

Between the **11<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020** students will complete **an assessment in each Junior Cycle subject (10 in total), excluding SPHE, CSPE and PE.**

The nature of these assessments given to students during this window will take into consideration student and staff wellbeing.

Teachers will carefully select the assessment task so that students are not overwhelmed.

Students will complete the **10 tasks over 10 days during the assessment window.** Students are advised to work at a steady pace, spreading the workload in a manageable way over the two week period. There will be no timetable as such, giving students the freedom to work at their own pace in their own context.

Students **will not be asked to complete any other work** during this two week assessment window.

Subject departments will use a selection of assessment modes, appropriate to the learning in their subjects, and aligned to the subject-specific Learning Outcomes or syllabi.

All teachers will award the relevant grade / descriptor for their subjects based on the information above (see bullet points in paragraph 4). The overall grade / descriptor will be based on:

**70% incorporating**

- Evidence available from assignments, tests, tasks journals, projects, practical and other work completed over the course of second year and third year
- Classroom-Based Assessments completed in second year and third year, where relevant

**30% incorporating**

- The assessment task being set for students to be completed during the Assessment Window from 11<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020.

Teachers of subjects comprehended under the wellbeing programme (SPHE, CSPE, PE) in Cross and Passion College will also report on aspects of achievement in these subjects.

Teachers will communicate the details of the assessment to students in time for the assessment window via the same distance learning platform that we have been using since school closure i.e. Google Classroom / school email account.

I hope that this provides clarity for our 3<sup>rd</sup> year students and their parents/guardians. Thank you for your patience throughout this period and I wish you the very best in the upcoming assessments.

Take care and stay safe.

J Leonard  
Principal

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