



Students in Irish schools completing their third year of Junior Cycle in 2020 have experienced a very disrupted period of learning in 2019/20 because of the unprecedented nature of the Covid-19 crisis. In MICC we have continued with learning and teaching through our online platforms. This has not been easy for anyone but we do appreciate the patience and understanding being shown during this time.

Below you will find the outline of how the end of year assessments will look like for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Year students. A separate document has been issued for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year students.

### **Context**

Teachers and schools have used a wide range of approaches to mitigate the effects of this disrupted schooling but the learning experience of students has varied across schools and students for a range of reasons over which these schools and students have had no control.

In these circumstances, it is not possible for students to undertake the Junior Cycle final examinations normally organised by the State Examinations Commission.

In addition, while many students have completed most of their classroom-based assessments (CBAs), short courses and/or priority learning units (PLUs), the normal range of assessment activities cannot be concluded consistently for all students.

In this context, the use of the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) is not appropriate as a reporting and certification mechanism in 2020.

### **Key elements**

In 2020, the Junior Cycle learning achievement of students will be recognised through a specific form of certification designed to meet the current, exceptional circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. For each student, certification will involve two elements:

- **A State Certificate of completion of Junior Cycle from the Department of Education and Skills.** Students should receive a State Certification that they have completed three years of Junior Cycle education in a number of subjects/priority learning units. This certification will be provided by the Department of Education and Skills.
- **A School Report setting out the learning achievements of students in Junior Cycle.** Students should receive a written report on the broad range of learning that they have achieved in each subject, short course and/or priority learning unit at the end of Junior Cycle. This assessment of their learning will be provided by their teachers. Schools will have autonomy in how this assessment is to be arrived at and the format in which the report is provided.

### The school's assessment of students' learning achievements

The assessment of students' learning achievements in each subject will take place at school level and will be based on the teacher's professional knowledge of each student's learning. Schools will have autonomy to choose the most appropriate form of school-based assessments to put in place for the third-year cohort of 2019/20.

- In Maria Immaculata Community College Dunmanway we are going to use a range of evidence to inform our assessment of students' achievements.
- In each subject area students will receive a descriptor as follows:

<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Descriptor</i>
<b><math>\geq 90</math> to 100</b>	<b>Distinction</b>
<b><math>\geq 75</math> and <math>&lt; 90</math></b>	<b>Higher Merit</b>
<b><math>\geq 55</math> and <math>&lt; 75</math></b>	<b>Merit</b>
<b><math>\geq 40</math> and <math>&lt; 55</math></b>	<b>Achieved</b>
<b><math>\geq 20</math> and <math>&lt; 40</math></b>	<b>Partially Achieved</b>
<b><math>\geq 0</math> and <math>&lt; 20</math></b>	<b>No Grade</b>
<i>Key to symbols:</i> <b><math>\geq</math> means greater than or equal to</b> <b><math>&lt;</math> means less than</b>	

- The descriptor awarded in each subject will be assigned based on a combination of pre-exam results, previous work/projects/practical work etc engaged with over the course of their junior cycle and assignments/assessments set between now and the end of the year.
- For each subject, the evidence of learning to be used and any method of assessment chosen will be decided by the relevant subject teachers in the context of the whole-school approach adopted above. Teachers know their students and can balance a variety of factors in arriving at the most suitable form of assessment to put in place for their students.
- Assignment/assessments set between now and the end of the year will be assigned within a specified assessment window of opportunity and will be completed and submitted by **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May**. Teachers will have regard to the impact that school closure will have had on students' ability to engage with further learning after 12 March 2020 and their ability to complete any additional assignments and assessments. For example, some students may be unable to undertake any additional assignments and/or assessments because of issues arising from the Covid-19 crisis. In such circumstances, the assessment of the students' learning, and the report of their achievement issued by the school, may be based solely on work completed prior to 12 March 2020.

### ***Providing the report to students***

- Students and their parents/guardians will receive a written report of the assessment of the student's learning in each subject and/or priority learning unit.
- This report will include the provision of descriptors. It will also detail separately the descriptors awarded to classroom-based assessments (CBAs) and/or priority learning units.
- The report will be provided to students and their parents/guardians as soon as is feasible following the completion of the school year 2019/20.

### ***Providing State Certification***

- The Department of Education and Skills will provide each student with a certificate indicating the completion of the Junior Cycle programme of study, including the list of subjects, short courses and/or priority learning units studied and the level at which the subject was studied.
- This data will not exceed the 10 subject limit on subjects for certification set out in Circular Letter 0055/2019.
- This certificate will be provided early in the school year 2020/21.

1<sup>st</sup> May 2020