

Junior Cycle English

Information on Junior Cycle English for Parents of Second Year Students.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

With the changes to Junior Cycle English there is now the addition of two classroom based assessments, (CBAs), one to be completed in second year and the other to be completed in third year. **There will be a descriptor (grading comment) awarded for these Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs). One of the following descriptors (grading comments) will be applied to your daughter's work; *Exceptional, Above Expectations, In Line With Expectations and Yet to Meet Expectations*. This descriptor (grading comment) will appear on your daughter's Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA).** The JCPA will display the results of The Junior Cycle State Exams and the two classroom based assessments. The JCPA focuses, not only on the learning achieved, but also on the students' skills and knowledge.

These (CBAs) will be completed in school time during a nationally assigned date, as specified by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. The English Department here in Loreto College, Mullingar have compiled an information sheet for you to keep you up to date with the changes relevant to your daughter.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS.

In Loreto College, our current 2nd year students will complete the following:

- o **Oral presentation based on research from Friday 27th of April – Friday, 18th of May 2018**
- o **A descriptor (grading comment) will appear on your child's Junior Cycle Profile Achievement (JCPA) after their Junior Certificate Results.**
 - There is great freedom with the topics for the oral communication task, as students can base their presentation on a hobby, an event, a person of interest or any research into an area of interest. A performance piece such as the delivery of a monologue or a dramatic improvisation can also be completed.
 - This Classroom-Based Assessment provides useful opportunities for the study of a range of oral presentation styles. In addition, the task offers students opportunities, where appropriate, to collaborate with classmates and others in gathering and developing materials. The student or group of students will identify **one topic**.
 - While oral communication forms a part of everyday learning and teaching across 1st and 2nd Year, the preparation for and communication by students for their Oral Communication Classroom-based Assessment will be

completed over a **period of three school weeks**. The Oral Communication Task (presentation) will have to be **3 minutes long (maximum) and presented in class during these nationally assigned dates**

- The Oral Communication Task will be assessed by the English Department within the school. Teachers from the English Department will then meet at a Subject Learning and Assessment Review Meeting following each CBA. At this meeting, teachers will share and discuss samples of their students' work in order to form a common understanding of the quality of student learning and ensure fairness in the awarding of a descriptor (grading comment).

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES FOR JUNIOR CYCLE ENGLISH:

- **In December 2019**, third year students will complete their second Classroom Based Assessment (CBA2). English Teachers will help students to choose two pieces of their best written work . **Again, students' work will be assessed by the English Department within the school. Teachers from the English Department will then meet at a Subject Learning and Assessment Review Meeting following this CBA. At this meeting, teachers will share and discuss samples of their students' work in order to form a common understanding of the quality of student learning and ensure fairness in the awarding of a descriptor (grading comment). This descriptor will also appear on their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement.**
- **In December 2019**, your daughter will also complete a **Classroom Based Assessment Task**. This Assessment Task is set by the Department of Education and Skills and will be carried out in English classes in **early December 2019** (specific dates to be confirmed). This Assessment Task forms **10% of the students overall grade**. The CBA Task will take place during **two 40 minute classroom periods**. This will be a written assessment that will be graded by **The State Examinations Commission**, along with the student's final Junior Cycle State Examination.

Please contact any of the relevant English teachers if you need any further information. See www.juniorcycle.ie for more details.

Loreto College English Department