

Goodbye Junior Certificate, Hello JCPA!

Congratulations to all the Transition Year students who received their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) on Monday 22nd January 2018.



What is the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA)?

As part of the Framework for Junior Cycle (2015) the reporting process at junior cycle will culminate in the award of the JCPA to students. The JCPA is a new kind of award. It has replaced the Junior Certificate from 2017. The JCPA was awarded by the school to the student for the first time on Monday 22nd January 2018. The JCPA will report on student achievement across a broad range of areas of learning in junior cycle. Alongside other reporting arrangements in junior cycle, it will offer parents/guardians a clear, broad picture of their child's learning journey over the three years of junior cycle. During the years in which students are studying existing Junior Certificate subjects alongside subjects for which new Junior Cycle specifications have been provided, the results of both will be included in the JCPA. From 2022 all of the new Junior Cycle specifications will have been introduced and the JCPA will from that year include results in respect of those specifications.

What is the rationale behind the awarding of the JCPA?

The JCPA will capture student achievements in a number of assessment elements undertaken over the three years of junior cycle, including the grades in the state-certified final

examinations at the end of the three years. It will also report on students' achievement in Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs) in subjects and short courses, and in Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs). It will also provide an opportunity for schools to comment on student achievement, participation or progress in other areas of learning that may have been included in the school's junior cycle programme. Schools may also wish to include broader aspects of reporting in this section or areas such as personal and social development and learning dispositions. Students may engage in other learning activities set out in a school's programme for junior cycle. These can include social, cultural, pastoral, scientific, entrepreneurial and other activities that can support the 24 statements of learning and the 8 key skills. In this way student engagement, progress and achievement in a wide range of other learning experiences outside of the schools junior cycle programme may be acknowledged in a student's JCPA, including areas such as participation in a school musical, membership of the student council or membership of a school's sports team. This kind of reporting gives every student the chance to have her particular strengths and engagement in areas of school life other than the traditional academic areas recognised and affirmed.

