

SENIOR CYCLE REDEVELOPMENT UPDATES



UNDERSTANDING AACS IN SENIOR CYCLE

As Senior Cycle Redevelopment continues to be introduced across Irish post-primary schools, students will encounter a new form of assessment known as an Additional Assessment Component (AAC). AACs are classroom-based assessments that form part of the overall State Examinations Commission (SEC) grade. They are designed to allow students to demonstrate key skills such as investigation, research, experimentation, analysis, problem-solving and communication throughout their learning, rather than relying solely on the final written examination.

AACs provide students with an opportunity to engage more deeply with their subject and to develop many of the real-world skills that are central to the revised Senior Cycle curriculum. While the final written examination remains an important part of assessment, AACs recognise and reward the work students complete as part of their learning journey over the two-year course.

Because AACs are completed over a specified period and contribute directly to students' final grades, regular attendance, active participation in class and careful adherence to deadlines are essential.

AAC Updates at Ballymakenny College

BELOW IS AN UPDATE ON AAC TIMELINES AND KEY DATES FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS IN THE SUBJECTS CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS. (THESE DATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND WILL BE COMMUNICATED AS THEY ARISE.)

Biology

The Biology AAC involves practical experimental work, data collection and the completion of a written report.

Key Dates:

- **12th - 23rd October 2026:** Experiments and data collection will take place during class time.
- **17th- 22nd December 2026:** Students will complete the written report during their Biology block class.
- **29th January 2027:** Final submission deadline.

Students should ensure they attend all Biology classes during the data collection period, as this work forms an essential part of their AAC.

Business

The Business AAC project has been underway since our return to school in September.

Students have been allocated a period of seven weeks to complete and submit their projects. This timeline and the project expectations have been communicated to students since March of 5th Year, giving them ample opportunity to prepare and plan their work.

Regular attendance and active engagement in Business class are particularly important throughout this process.

Important Deadline:

- **6th November 2026:** Final submission date.

As this assessment forms part of the formal certification process, late submissions cannot be accepted and extensions cannot be granted. Students are encouraged to make effective use of their allocated class time to ensure completion of the project by the deadline.

Chemistry

The Chemistry AAC involves practical experimental work, data collection and the completion of a written report.

Key Dates:

- **9th – 20th November 2026:** Experiments and data collection will take place during class time.
- **7th – 22nd of December 2026:** Completion of the written report.
- **19th of March 2027:** Final submission deadline.

Students should ensure they attend all Chemistry classes during the data collection period, as this work forms an essential part of their AAC.

Physics

Physics students are currently engaged in the data collection phase of their AAC, with experiments being conducted in stages during class time.

Once data collection has been completed, students will be required to write their report independently outside of class time.

Key Dates:

- Data Collection: Ongoing during class.
- Make-Up Sessions (if required):
 - o **Monday 2nd November 2027**
 - o **Tuesday 3rd November 2027**
 - o **Thursday 5th November 2027**
- **11th December 2027:** Final submission deadline.

Students who need to repeat experiments or gather additional data should take advantage of the scheduled make-up sessions after mid-term.