

2nd Year 2025_2026

Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs)

As part of the Junior Cycle, students now complete Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs) in each subject.

- Your child will usually do two CBAs in every subject – one in 2nd year and one in 3rd year This Cohort will do one CBA in most subjects except, Home Ec & Art.
- Some short courses (like certain PE) also have CBAs.
- CBAs take place during normal class time and are planned by the school.

Instead of a traditional written test, a CBA might be:

- A project or investigation
- An oral presentation
- A performance or practical task
- A piece of extended written work or portfolio

This allows students to show skills that a one-off written exam can't capture, such as communication, creativity, problem-solving and research.

How are CBAs marked?

CBAs are assessed by your child's own teacher using national guidelines.

Instead of marks or percentages, students receive one of the following descriptors:

- Exceptional
- Above Expectations
- In Line with Expectations
- Yet to Meet Expectations

Teachers meet in school (a meeting called a **Subject Learning and Assessment Review / SLAR**) to look at samples of work together and agree standards, so that results are fair and consistent.

Do CBAs affect the Junior Cycle results?

Yes – but not in the same way as the written exam.

- The final Junior Cycle exam is still marked by the State Examinations Commission.
- The CBA descriptors are recorded on your child's Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA), which you receive from the school after exams. Together with exam grades, Wellbeing and "Other Areas of Learning", CBAs give a more complete picture of your child's progress over the three years of Junior Cycle.

What does this mean for my child?

For students, CBAs:

- Count as an important part of their Junior Cycle record
- Encourage good habits – planning, research, meeting deadlines
- Give chances to show their strengths in different ways, not just in a timed exam
- Provide feedback from teachers on how to improve

How can parents support CBAs at home?

You can help by:

- Asking what CBA they are working on and when it is due
- Encouraging your child to start early and avoid last-minute rush
- Providing a quiet space and time at home to work on it
- Praising the effort and learning, not just the final descriptor

If you have questions about a particular CBA (timing, type of task, support needed), you're always welcome to contact the relevant subject teacher or the Year Head