



JUNIOR CYCLE IN COLÁISTE BRÍDE

PARENT
INFORMATION

Explaining the
changes!

Explaining the Junior Cycle

- The new Junior Cycle will place the student at the centre of the learning process.
- It allows for new ways of learning and a broader range of skills to be properly assessed.
- This presentation aims to inform parents of the changes that have recently come about, regarding the introduction of the new Junior Cycle.
- You may be concerned how these changes will affect your child!
- We hope to address some of these concerns and in turn help you to support your child on their learning journey in Coláiste Bríde.



Overview of this Presentation:

1. To understand the vision and aim of the new Junior Cycle.
2. To explore the reasons for change.
3. To recognise the Structure of the new Junior Cycle Framework
4. To outline the key differences between the Junior Certificate and the Junior Cycle.
5. To discuss new Junior Cycle terminology.
6. To clarify how student results are reported back.
7. To recognise how parents can support their child in their Junior Cycle Journey.

**WHY
CHANGE?**

Our Students

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí
JuniorCYCLE
for teachers

Connecting
primary
and
secondary

Settling in and
making progress
in first year

Ongoing
assessment
to support
learning

A
purposeful
second year

Transitioning from primary to secondary - Junior Cycle ensures a smoother progression and is similar to the primary curriculum.

Settling in and making progress – the initial focus is on settling into Coláiste Bríde, getting to know classmates, teachers, surrounds and making friends.

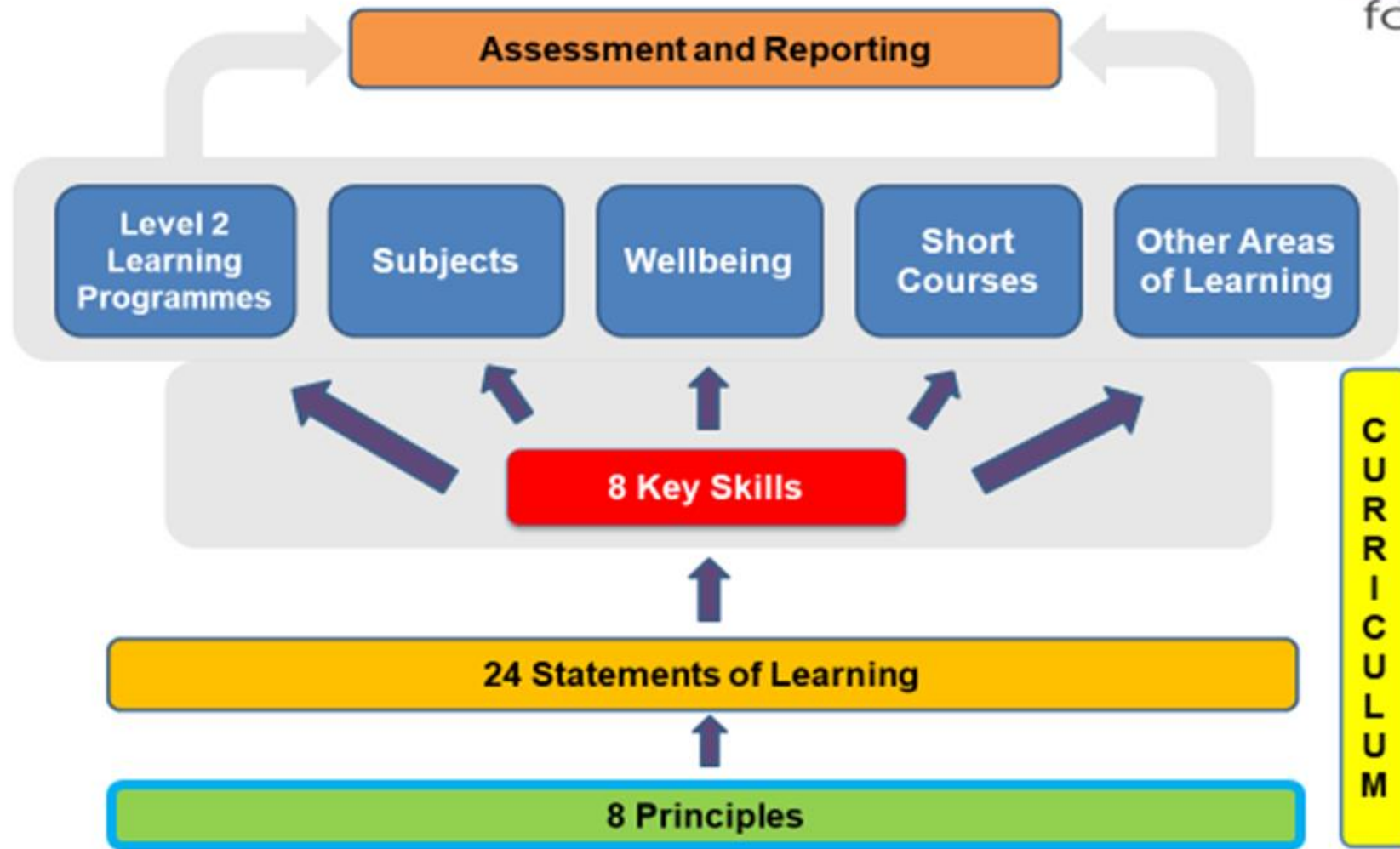
A purposeful second year – Junior Cycle aims for better interaction between teachers and students - leading to a more positive self image academically and socially.

Ongoing Assessment – Continuous assessment replaces the old end of 3rd year Junior Certificate style exam. This assessment for learning fosters feedback, reflection and critical thinking.

STRUCTURE OF THE NEW JUNIOR CYCLE

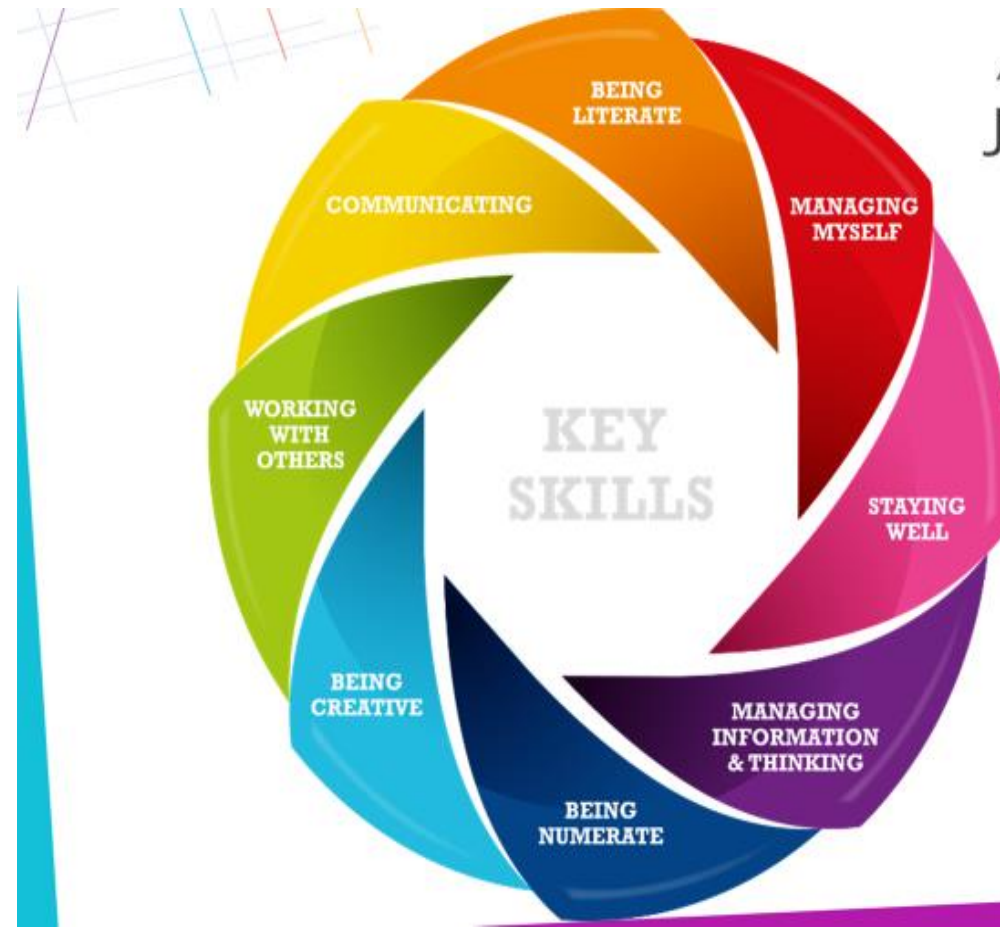
Structure of the Junior Cycle

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8 Key Skills

1. Communicating
2. Being Literate
3. Managing Myself
4. Staying Well
5. Managing Information And Thinking
6. Being Numerate
7. Being Creative
8. Working With Others



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JuniorCYCLE
for teachers

The 8 Principles, 24 Statements and 8 Key Skills

- These **Principles**, **24 Statements of Learning** and **Key Skills** underpin the new Junior Cycle Framework.
- Each of these **Statements** and **Principles** support each other and form the basis for the curriculum in each subject.
- **L2LP programmes** are designed for students with special needs who cannot access the full curriculum. It is unlikely that more than a handful of students will access these programmes and further information can be obtained from our SEN coordinator.

KEY DIFFERENCES

So... What's the difference between the new Junior Cycle and the old Junior Certificate?

- Well... for a start:
- The new Junior Cycle has a maximum of **10** subjects at state exam level.
- The **Department of Education** has given us some options;
 - For example fewer subjects and more short courses;
 - But for now in our school we will study all 10 subjects.

NEW TERMINOLOGY

What are the key differences?

- Up until now most students did **11** exam subjects.
- Students in first year will still learn CSPE, PE and SPHE but now they will be included in a new subject called Wellbeing, along with guidance related learning.
- Projects and activities will be reflected upon as part of the **Other Areas of Learning** section of their official certificate - called the **Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement** .
- The syllabus or specifications for many subjects has changed or is in the process of changing in recent years.

Changes!!

- The changes started with **English**, then **Science** and **Business Studies**, now this years **first years** will also study **Irish**, **Modern Languages** and **Art & Design** for the new Junior Cycle.
- From September 2018 all **1st** year students will also study the new course in **Maths**, **History**, **Geography** and **Music**.
- By 2020 all of the Junior Cycle subjects in our school (including **Religion**) will have new specifications laying out the framework of what we should learn over the years.

What changes are we most likely to notice this year?



So what is new?



- **Classroom Based Assessments**

- The biggest difference for students throughout the course of the 3 year cycle is the introduction of the new **Classroom Based Assessments(CBA)**.
- The **CBA's** will take place between **2nd** and **3rd** year and happen during normal class time but within a national timeframe for each subject.

By participating in a CBA, your Child will be involved in the following:

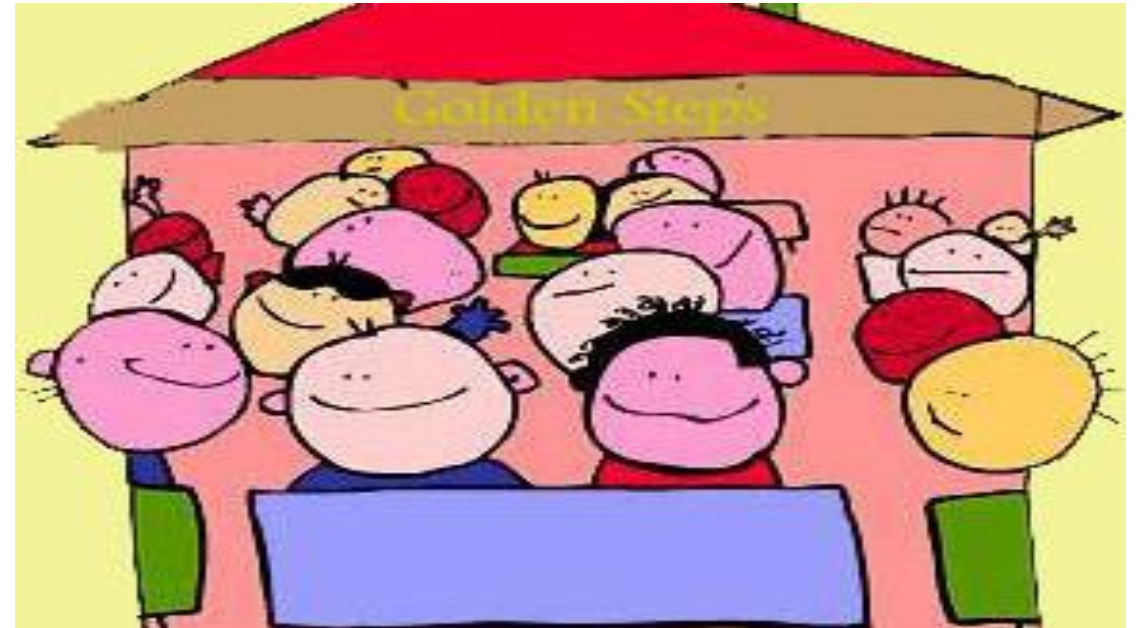
- Reviewing Feedback to identify what they have achieved and done well in.
- Planning what to do next
- Viewing peer samples
- Setting personal goals
- Redrafting work
- Giving feedback to others



How and when will Classroom Based Assessments take place?

The **CBA** -facilitated by the subject teacher during class time in consultation with other class teachers in that department.

Please **note** that if a student does not sit a Classroom Based Assessment, the words **“not reported”** will appear on her official certificate at the end of the Junior Cycle



THEY HAVE A DIFFERENT DESCRIPTOR

The **CBA descriptors** are instead awarded as follows:

Exceptional

Above Expectations

In line with Expectations

Yet to Meet Expectations

What is the Assessment Task?

Compiled in 3rd Year



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

- **The Assessment Task** requires students to show an understanding of the knowledge and skills developed during the second Classroom Based Assessment, **CBA2**.
- **The Assessment Task** will be completed in class time under the supervision of the teacher and will be sent to the **SEC** for marking along with the script for that subject in the state-certified exams. It is worth **10%** of the final grade in a subject.

Grades Vs Descriptors

- You will see a change in how student achievements are described in Junior Cycle subjects. A B C D E grades are now being replaced by descriptors as each new subject is introduced.

The Descriptors are:

- Distinction
- Higher Merit
- Merit
- Achieved
- Partially Achieved

Assessment: Subjects


Exams will be set, held and marked by the State Examinations Commission in June of third year.

- English, Irish and Maths specified at Higher and Ordinary levels
- All other subjects specified at a Common Level
- Duration of 2 hours or less

**HOW ARE YOUR
RESULTS
REPORTED?**

The old Junior Certificate is being replaced by the new Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement



JUNIOR CYCLE PROFILE OF ACHIEVEMENT

2017

John Kelly

DOB: 21 June 2001

STATE CERTIFIED
FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Examination number: 456985

English (O) Distinction

Irish (O) A

Mathematics (H) B

History (H) C

Geography (H) D

French (O) C

Business Studies (H) B

Classroom-Based Assessments - English

Oral Communication Above expectations

Collection of Texts In line with expectations

Classroom-Based Assessments - Short Courses

Coding In line with expectations

Physical Education Above expectations

Artistic Performance Exceptional


Philosophy In line with expectations

Range of Learning

Ability to report on other learning experiences/events that the student has undertaken outside the formal timetabled curriculum such as;
Participation in co-curricular or extra-curricular activities such as a science fair, sports, debating or other activities.
Participation in learning opportunities that do not form part of subjects or short courses, such as leadership training; activities relating to guidance; membership of school societies or societies; membership of school's student council.
Participation in engagements that form part of the formal timetabled curriculum but not reported on in other sections of the JCFA i.e. engagement with a school's own religious education programme or with elements of the PE, SPHE curriculum and CSPE.


Principal

Ms Mary Ryan




Year Head

MR Jack Quigley



Roll Number: 600900

Anytown Secondary School
Anytown Co. Anytown
V94HXV5



This JCFA recognises and records achievements in Junior Cycle.



John Kelly

DOB: 21 June 2001

STATE CERTIFIED
FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Examination number: 456985

English (O) Distinction

Irish (O) ⁽²⁾ B

Mathematics (H) B

History (H) C

Geography (H) D

French (O) ⁽²⁾ C

Business Studies (H) B

Science (H) B

Technology (H) B

C.S.P.E. (C) A

Religion (H) A

Classroom-Based Assessments - English

Oral Communication Exceptional

Collection of Texts Exceptional

Classroom-Based Assessments - Short Courses

Coding Above expectations

Physical Education Exceptional

Other Areas of Learning



Principal

Ms Mary Ryan

Year Head

Mr. Jack Quigley

Roll Number: 60090Q

Anytown Secondary School
Anytown, Co. Anytown
V94 HXW5

Anytown Secondary School

What will be reported on the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement?

- The **Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement** will report on achievement across all elements of assessment including **Classroom Based Assessments**, CBA1 and 2;
- **SEC Results** from the state certified examinations
- And including in most subjects the **Assessment Task**.
- It will be filled in **at school level** by the student, guided by parents and teachers.

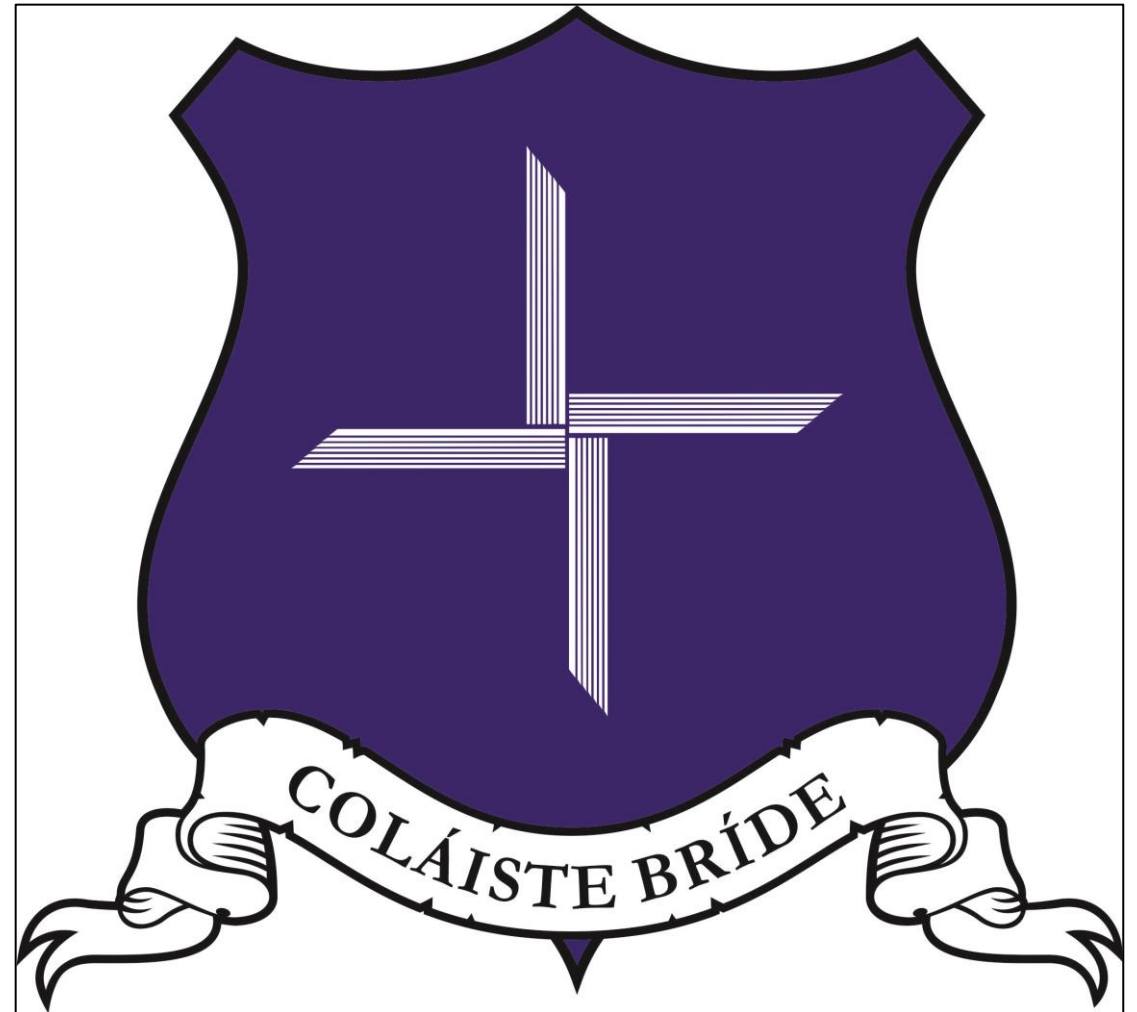
This Other Areas of Learning section

provides an opportunity for schools to comment on student achievement, participation and progress in other aspects of learning that took place between first year and third year.



The School may also report on wider aspects of learning and achievement in this section, such as:

- Attendance
- Personal Development
- Engagement with a school's individual programme
- Whole School Initiatives



Some Suggested Areas to reflect upon:

- ☐ Well Read Initiative
- ☐ "I'm Worth it " Well-being Week
- ☐ Student Council membership
- ☐ Green Schools Committee
- ☐ School Sports Team Membership
- ☐ Debating
- ☐ Library
- ☐ Clubs / Society
- ☐ Student Language Exchange / Tour
- ☐ Significant Learning Experiences from specific Subjects.....



These Activities support the **8 Key Skills** mentioned earlier and must be part of school life – not community involvement etc... Parents play an important role at this stage by discussing and guiding your child in deciding what experiences to report on.

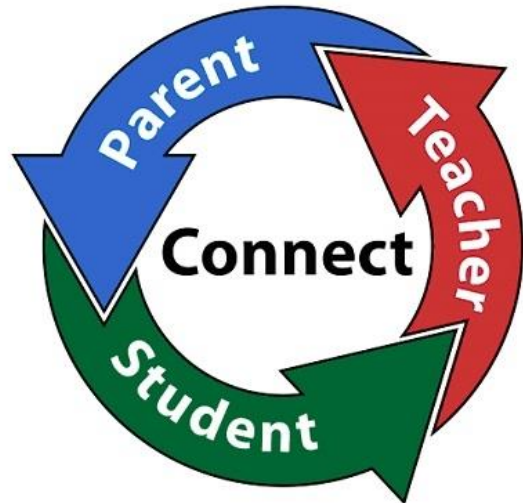
It is important for students to take time to reflect on past learning experiences in Coláiste Bríde before deciding on the exact wording of their **OTHER AREAS OF LEARNING** section on their individual Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement.

FINALLY...

Parental Support – How to support your child in their Junior Cycle Journey!

- Recognise that your child will have lots of different types of homework:

For Example; Active Research, project work, presentations, group work, and using digital technologies.





- Listen discuss and support your child's ideas, encourage them to **reflect on their learning** because this is a huge part of the Junior Cycle.
- Get them **to practice** their **CBA**s in front of you, ask them what kind of feedback they are getting and how they learn best in different subjects.
- Encourage them **to take responsibility** for their own learning.



- **Well being** is essential for successful learning and a happy life.
- The new **Junior Cycle** recognises this – it emphasises the importance of supporting your child to develop the knowledge and skills they need to maintain **positive mental, emotional, social and physical** wellbeing.

Finally..... The Purpose of the new Junior Cycle is to:

- Help students become better learners and develop a love of learning.
- Provide a solid foundation for further study.
- Develop skills for learning and life.
- Support learning through improved reporting to both students and parents.



JUNIOR CYCLE EXPLAINED!
