



## **Junior Cert 2020 Assessments**

Dear Parents / Guardians and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students,

We hope you and your families are all keeping well and coping as best as you can in these extraordinary times. Recent weeks have been very challenging for everyone but particularly our State Exam students. We welcome the clarity that has now emerged for our JC Cohort. Late last week the Minister for Education and Skills, Joe McHugh TD, announced the revised arrangements for this year's Junior Cycle. These arrangements include:

### **State Certificate**

All 3<sup>rd</sup> year students will receive a State Certificate of Completion of Junior Cycle from the Department of Education and Skills. It will indicate the subjects studied by students and the level at which the subject was studied. This will be issued in the Autumn of 2020.

### **Junior Cycle School Report 2020**

3<sup>rd</sup> Year students will receive a Junior Cycle School Report from Ballyhaunis Community School outlining their Learning Achievements over the 3 years of Junior Cycle. Teachers will use the available evidence from marks acquired by students in Semester Tests, Class Tests, Practical Work (where relevant) over the past 3 years and their Mock results to assess students. These marks/grades achieved prior to March 13<sup>th</sup> will be used to determine the student's average mark/grade and will be worth 80% of the overall mark.

In addition to the above, each Subject Department will assign 3<sup>rd</sup> Year students a common assessment to be completed at home and returned to the teacher by a specific deadline between the 20<sup>th</sup> May and the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020. These assessments and also student's level of engagement on-line since the school closed will be marked out of 20% and will be used along with the average mark from Term Reports over the last 3 years to determine the student's overall grade in the subject.

In summary BCS's JC Report will be based on the following:

Semester Assessments/ Class Tests/ Mock Exams	80%
Engagement with Distance Learning since March 12 <sup>th</sup>	10%
End of Year Assessment	10%

We would ask that we would be made aware immediately of situations where it was not possible to engage with our Distance Learning Programme.

All Subjects will be reported on in the School report using the Junior Cycle Descriptors:

Distinction	Higher Merit	Merit
Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Graded

The Junior Cycle School Report will also record students' achievement in Classroom Based Assessments (CBA's) where they have been completed. The following descriptors will be used:

Exceptional	Above Expectations
In line with Expectations	Yet to meet Expectations

Third Year students will finish the Junior Certificate programme on May 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be no examinations in September. Therefore, when students resume school in the next academic year they will progress into their chosen programme at senior cycle level.

### **End of Year Assessments Schedule**

As the school year does not finish until May 29<sup>th</sup>, Third Year students are still expected to continue to work with their teachers and submit work as requested. This work will be taken into account in the results they will receive in their school reports.

The schedule of this work includes;

- On-going engagement with distance learning
- Assessments in each subject via online assessments as directed by each teacher.

For Third Year Students this is now their final opportunity to show evidence of their learning and capability in their various subjects. We would encourage all students to engage fully with Distance Learning in the remaining weeks.

We, as a school community, are delighted that at last there is clarity on all of this for our students and their families. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or queries and we will get back to you.

David McDonagh  
[principal@ballyhauniscs.ie](mailto:principal@ballyhauniscs.ie)

Orla Macken  
[o.macken@ballyhauniscs.ie](mailto:o.macken@ballyhauniscs.ie)

