

## **Junior Certificate Assessment and Reporting 2020**

### **Tarbert Comprehensive School**

Dear 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Parents and Students,  
Following consultation with the School staff, a method of assessment and reporting has been agreed in relation to the Junior Certificate for 2020. The arrangements are in line with official guidance to schools from the Department of Education and Skills.

#### **Assessment of the Junior Cert 2020**

Marks will be allocated as follows:

- **80%** of the grade will go to an average taken from the 6 previous in house exams of 3<sup>rd</sup> Year students, namely;
  - Christmas and summer of JC1,
  - Christmas and summer of JC2,
  - Christmas and Mocks of JC3.

If a student missed one or more of these exams then the average of the available exams will be used.

- **20%** of the grade will go to an end of term subject task or assignment or project or presentation to be issued in the next 3 weeks by subject teachers. This may be a single task or multiple and will be sent and returned via School Gmail. The exact task(s) will be explained by your child's subject teacher in the coming days. Up to 4 days will be allowed for a student to get this task done. For example the English Department may agree on an essay task, History a project task etc. etc. If a student has an issue with Wi-Fi, the work may be posted to the School so it can be forwarded for correction to teachers. Please notify Mr Prendiville or Ms Moloney if this is required. If the work is not completed then the grade will be lost.

Practical Departments or subjects with practical elements including Science, Home Economics, Woodwork and Metalwork can assign up to 10% of this final 20% to any practical work/project work or portfolio work done since before the March closure

The combination of these final marks will then be uploaded on VSware as normal in early June and printed results will be issued in due course.

#### **Reporting of the Junior Cert 2020**

In 2020, the Junior Cycle learning achievement of students will be recognised through a specific form of certification designed to meet the current, exceptional circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For each student, certification will involve two elements:

1. **A State Certificate of completion of Junior Cycle from the Department of Education and Skills.** Students should receive a State Certification that they have completed three years of Junior Cycle education in a number of subjects. This certification will be provided by the Department of Education and Skills.
2. **A School Report setting out the learning achievements of students in Junior Cycle.** Students will receive a written report on the broad range of learning that they have achieved in each subject at the end of Junior Cycle. This assessment of their learning will be provided by their teachers in the format described above.

Please note that while some subjects are sat at a common level, those reported on at Higher or Ordinary will reflect the level at which the student sat the mock and which was indicated on official returns to the State Examinations Commission (even though students may have wished to drop levels later).

Art does not have a written paper at JC and is based on a portfolio grade using a predictive grading system - this will be maintained. Mr Langan will communicate with his students.

### **End of teaching term and completion of exams**

- Tuition for 1st Year, 2nd Year, 3rd Year and TY students will end on Friday May 22nd. Summer assessments will therefore have been issued and returned from students by this date.
- Tuition for LC1 and LC2 will end on Thursday May 28th - LC1 students will have summer assignments issued and returned by this date

### **Conclusion**

The above procedures are now being communicated to parents and students via text, email and school app/website.

The Board of Management has approved the arrangements in light of the Department of Education guidelines.

I want to sincerely thank you the students and parents for your support and engagement at this time. The previous arrangement of doing the exams in September was viewed by the School as a wholly unacceptable arrangement that added to the stress and burden of our students. However this new solution I feel, is the fairest and best way forward for all. I therefore request students to make one final push and engage with your teachers for these final 3 weeks.

Finally I want to sincerely thank the staff for all their efforts to date in maintaining teaching and learning in very difficult times – I am indebted to them.

I wish you all the very best in these difficult times.

Kindest Regards

***Mr Richard Prendiville, Principal***