



## New Junior Cycle – New Language



The New Junior Cycle is now part of the everyday experience of students in CBS Naas. In order to support our students during this time of change we need to become familiar with both the language and meaning of new Junior Cycle terminology.

In this document we will look at four terms which are being used in school every day and which will help us to understand the final grade achieved in the Junior Cycle.

1. **Classroom Based Assessment (CBA)**
2. **Assessment Tasks (AT)**
3. **Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA)**
4. **Features of Quality**

1. **CBA**s are an integral part of the New Junior Cycle. They provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their understanding and skills in ways not possible in a formal examination. CBAs take place during class time and are reported on in the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA). There are two CBAs for each subject, one in second year and one in third year (Gaeilge is the only exception to this with two CBAs taking place in third year). The grading system used for CBAs comprises of a 'Descriptor' rather than a percentage. Descriptors are awarded to students based on subject specific 'Features of Quality' (please see point 4 below). Further information about the content of these CBAs is available on the JCT website [www.jct.ie](http://www.jct.ie)

2. The **Assessment Task** is a written task completed by students during class time and is sent to the State Examinations Commission for marking. It takes place immediately after CBA2 in third year and is based on material from CBA2. This task is worth 10% of the final Junior Cycle exam.

3. The **JCPA** is the award that students will receive at the end of their junior cycle. This certificate will reward achievement across all areas of learning including achievements outside of the classroom e.g. music, sports etc.

4. **Features of Quality** are statements that support teachers in making decisions about the quality of student work for the purpose of awarding a 'Descriptor'. These 'Features of Quality' are available on our website under JCT and will help you to understand the grade your son has achieved.

### Two issues that have arisen with CBAs and Assessment Tasks are:

**Attendance:** Students and parents will be informed of the dates and times of their CBA and Assessment Task and should be in school to participate in these learning experiences. If a student is very ill (or in other serious circumstances) he will be accommodated by the school. However all students are expected to do their utmost to attend (just as in the State Exams).

**Independent Learning:** An important skill being developed during this Assessment process is Independent Learning. This will be an invaluable tool for your son through second and third level education so please encourage him to be independent during his preparation for these assessments.