

A Brief Introduction to the new certification at Junior Cycle-

The Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

The new Junior Cycle is changing and improving each student's learning experience. One major change in the way learning is recognised is through the new form of certification of the Junior Cycle called the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA). The JCPA is divided into three sections outlining:

1. The results of the formal Junior Cycle written exams taken at the end of third year.
2. The results/descriptors for Classroom Based Assessments taken in 2nd and 3rd year.
3. Other Areas of Learning*-a brief summary of the student's extracurricular activities.

*Other Areas of Learning (OALs) recognise the key skills developed through participating in school-based, extra-curricular activities. A student could merit an OAL if they have;

- ✓ Won a specific award for sporting, cultural or behavioural achievements at an end of year school awards ceremony.
- ✓ Been an active member of a school sports team/panel.
- ✓ Been a member of the Students' Council.
- ✓ Entered a competition such as the BT Young Scientist, the LMETB Young Historian or any national competition.
- ✓ Taken part in the organisation of a charity fundraising event in the school.
- ✓ Performed in front of classmates/schoolmates at a school musical, dramatic or dance performance.
- ✓ Been an active member of any school club

OALs are an important innovation in the Junior Cycle as they encourage students to become active members of the school community. Crucially, they also contribute towards a more accurate and holistic overview of a student's achievements throughout their Junior Cycle career.