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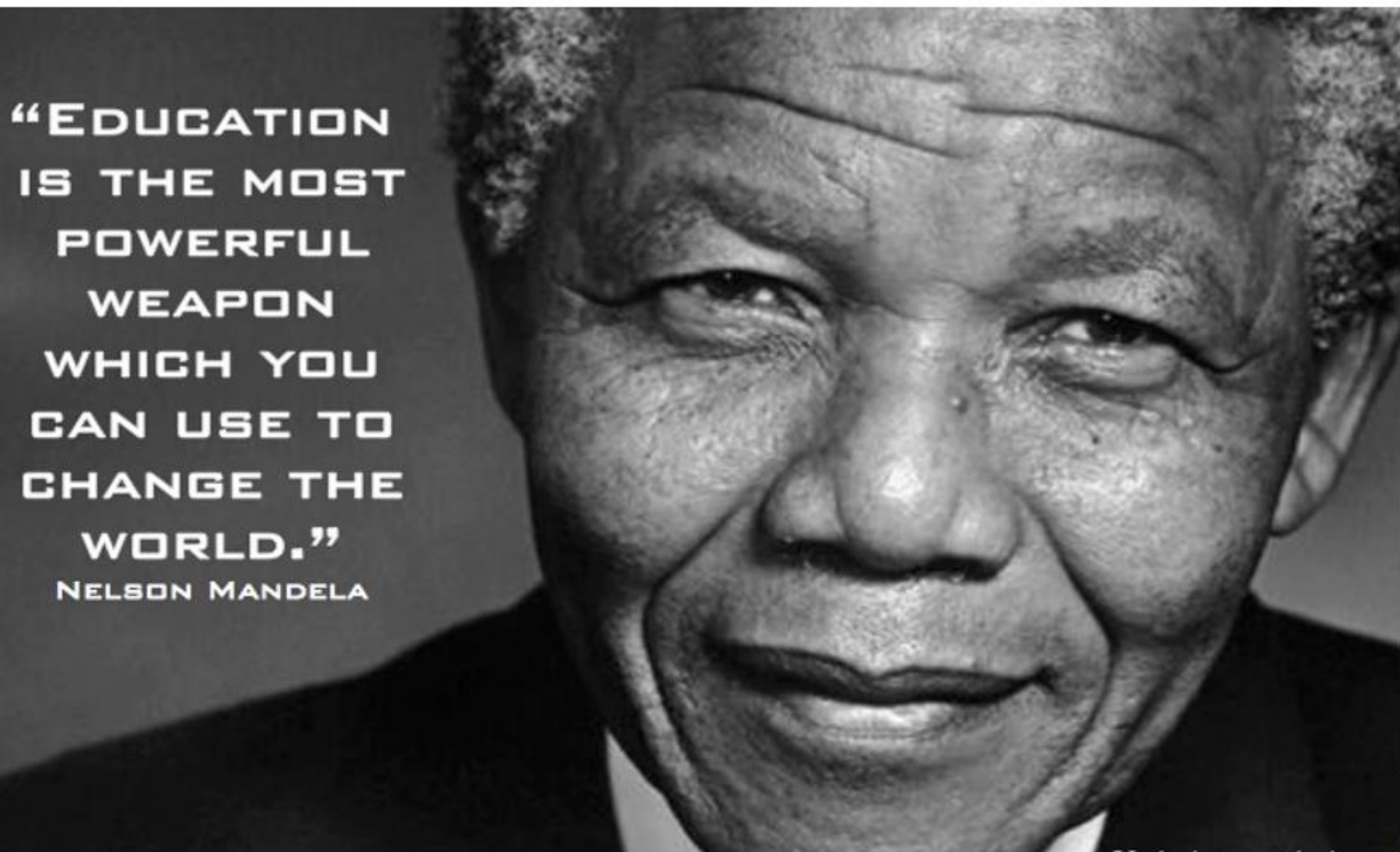
*Bord Oideachais agus
Oiliúna Lú agus na Mí*
Louth and Meath Education
and Training Board



Parents' Information Evening WELCOME

**“EDUCATION
IS THE MOST
POWERFUL
WEAPON
WHICH YOU
CAN USE TO
CHANGE THE
WORLD.”**

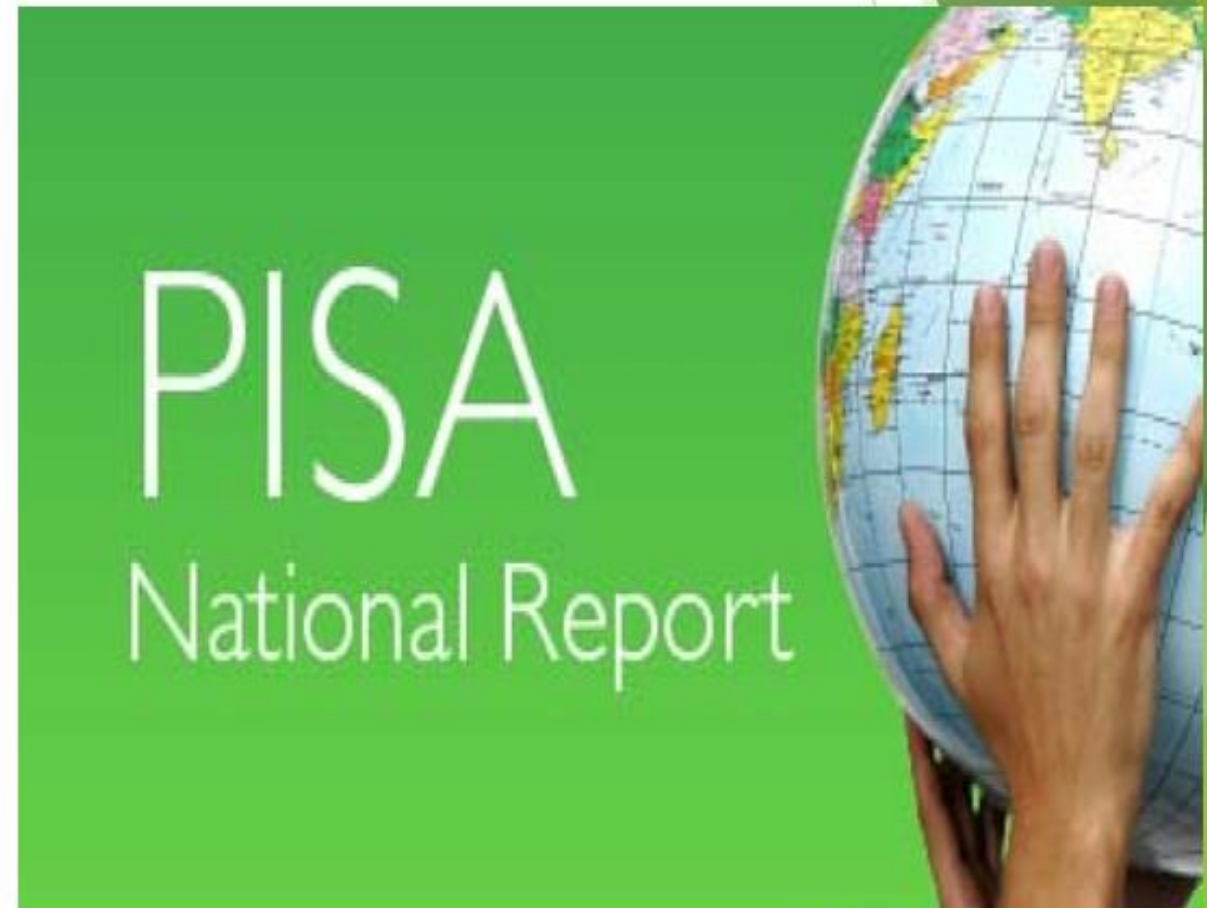
NELSON MANDELA



The aim of this session is to discuss ...

- Why changes are happening in Junior Cycle
- The Junior Cycle Programme - aims, specifications and assessment & reporting
- How you can support your child's learning in the new Junior Cycle.

But do we really need to change?

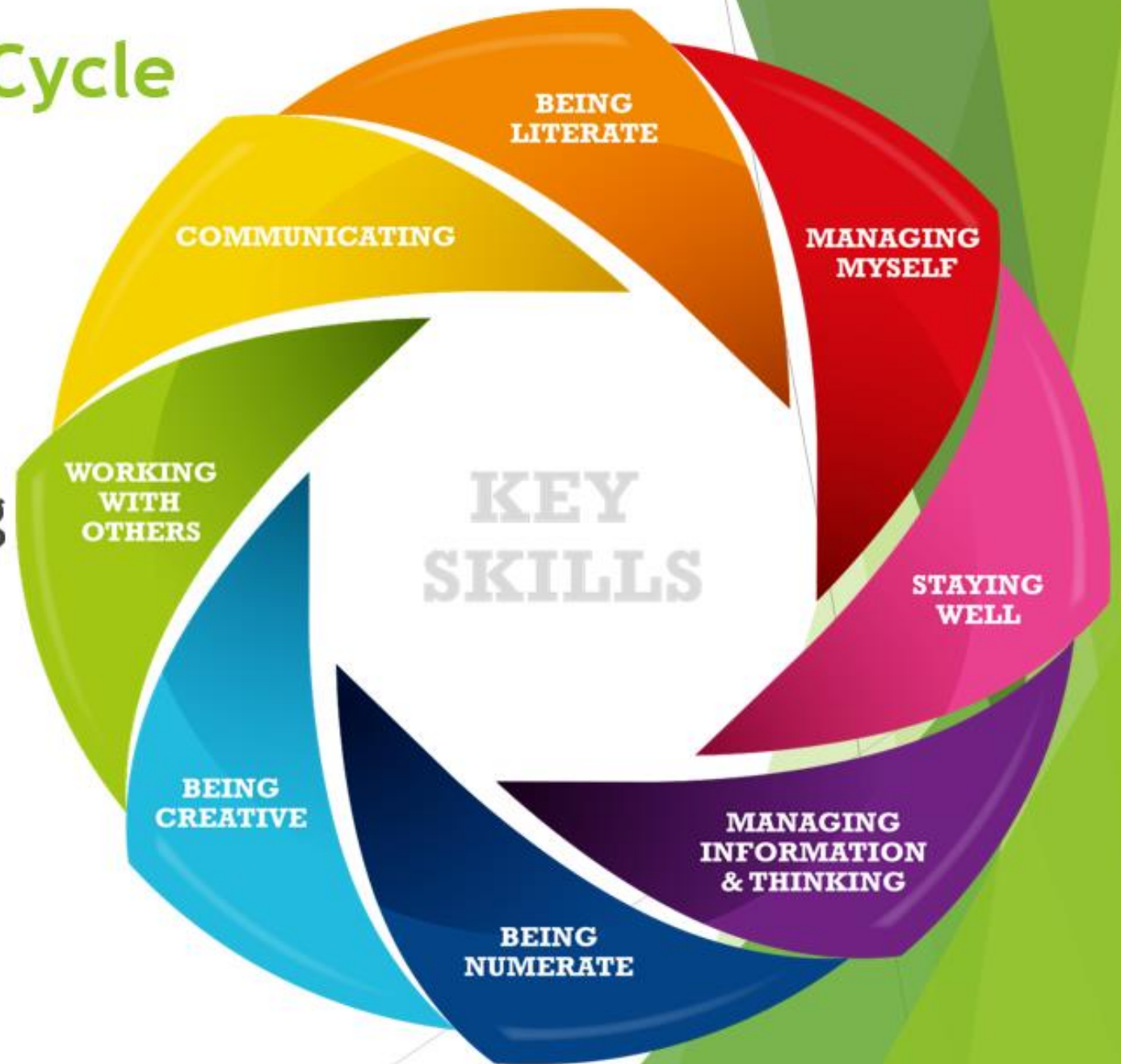


What is the purpose of education in Junior Cycle?

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

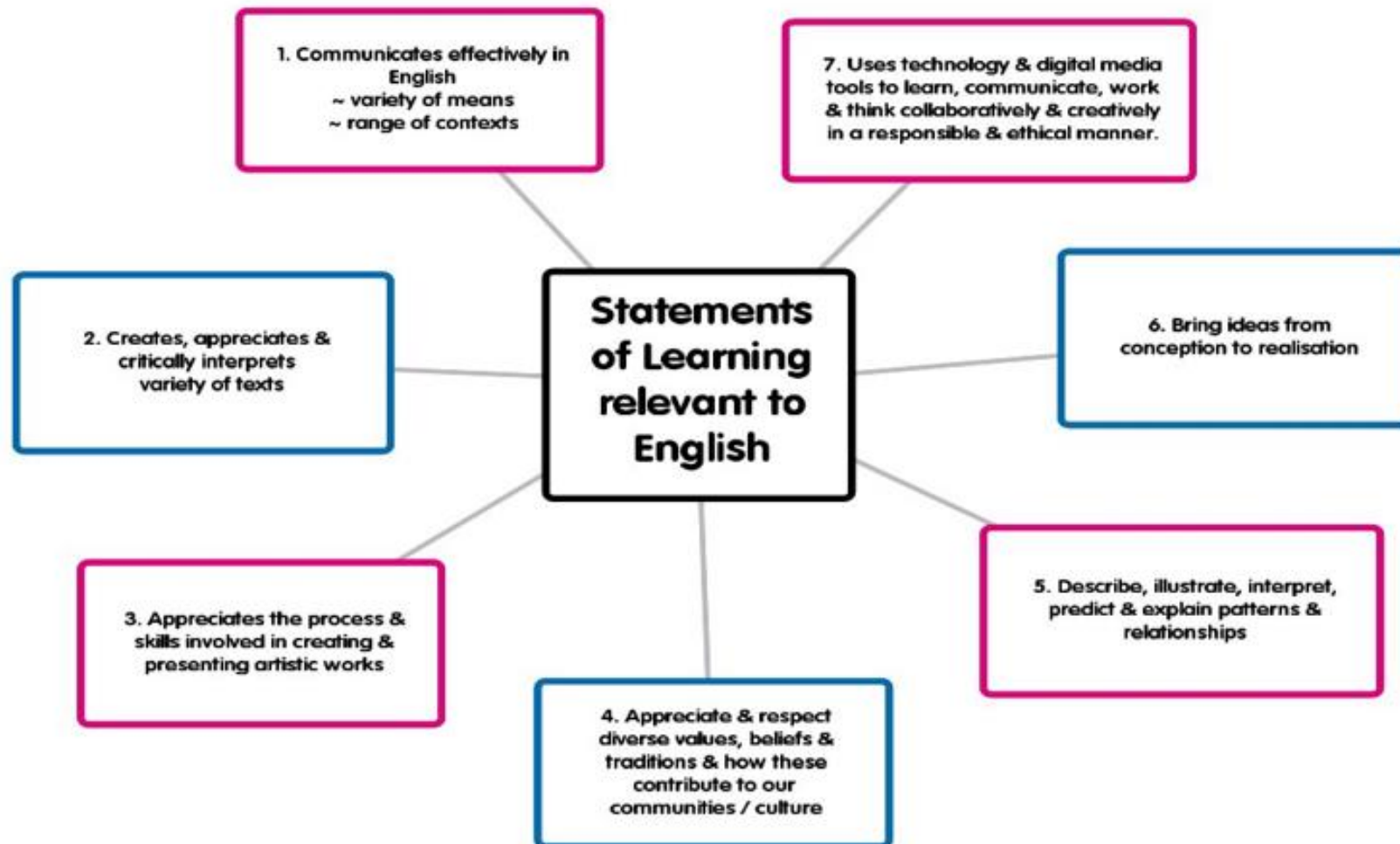
Structure Of Junior Cycle

- ▶ 8 Principles
- ▶ 24 Statements of Learning
- ▶ 8 Key Skills



24 Statements of Learning

Statements of Learning - English



Your child in First Year

Sept 2015

English
Short Courses

Sept 2016

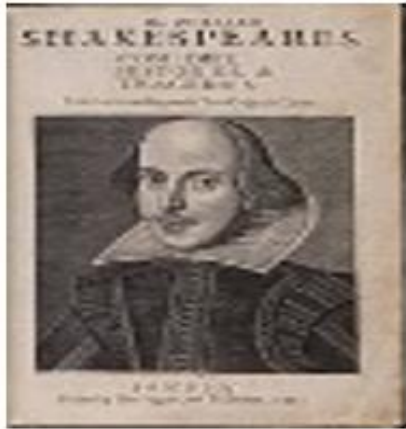
English
Science
Business Studies
Short Courses

Sept 2017

English
Science
Business Studies
Irish
Art, Craft &
Design
Modern
Languages
Short Courses

Junior Cycle Programme

- ▶ Students will study 10 specifications as part of their Junior Cycle programme.
- ▶ English, Irish and Maths are mandatory.



Assessment & Reporting



'The purpose of assessment at this stage of education is to support learning'.

What are Classroom Based Assessments?

- ▶ There are two **classroom based assessments** for each specification.
- ▶ One takes place towards the end of 2nd year and the other before Christmas in 3rd year.
- ▶ They are assessed by teachers.
- ▶ Students are awarded descriptors rather than grades.

Exceptional

Above Expectations

In Line with Expectations

Yet to meet Expectations

Ensuring Quality

- Schools will organise “**Subject Learning and Assessment Review**” (SLAR) meetings
 - Teachers will compare their assessment of students’ work and ensure a common approach across the school
 - Teachers and schools will be supported by a team of assessment associates working with Junior Cycle for Teachers
 - CPD will be provided for teachers to ensure that the Classroom-Based Assessments align to a national standard

Assessment Task

Following the second **Classroom Based Assessment** there will be a formal written **Assessment Task worth 10% of overall grade** in December of 3rd Year

- ▶ Manageable and short
- ▶ Undertaken in class and supervised by the teacher
- ▶ Not marked or commented upon by the teacher
- ▶ Submitted to the SEC and marked along with the terminal exam in each specification

The State Exams - June of 3rd Year

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

Subjects

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

How will the written exam change?

- ▶ Gone is the predictability of the old exams; in its place are questions that require students to analyse and think critically.
- ▶ Instead of traditional grades, such as As and Bs, students would be graded using descriptive terms such as “merit” or “distinction”.
- ▶ The exam in June is worth 90%



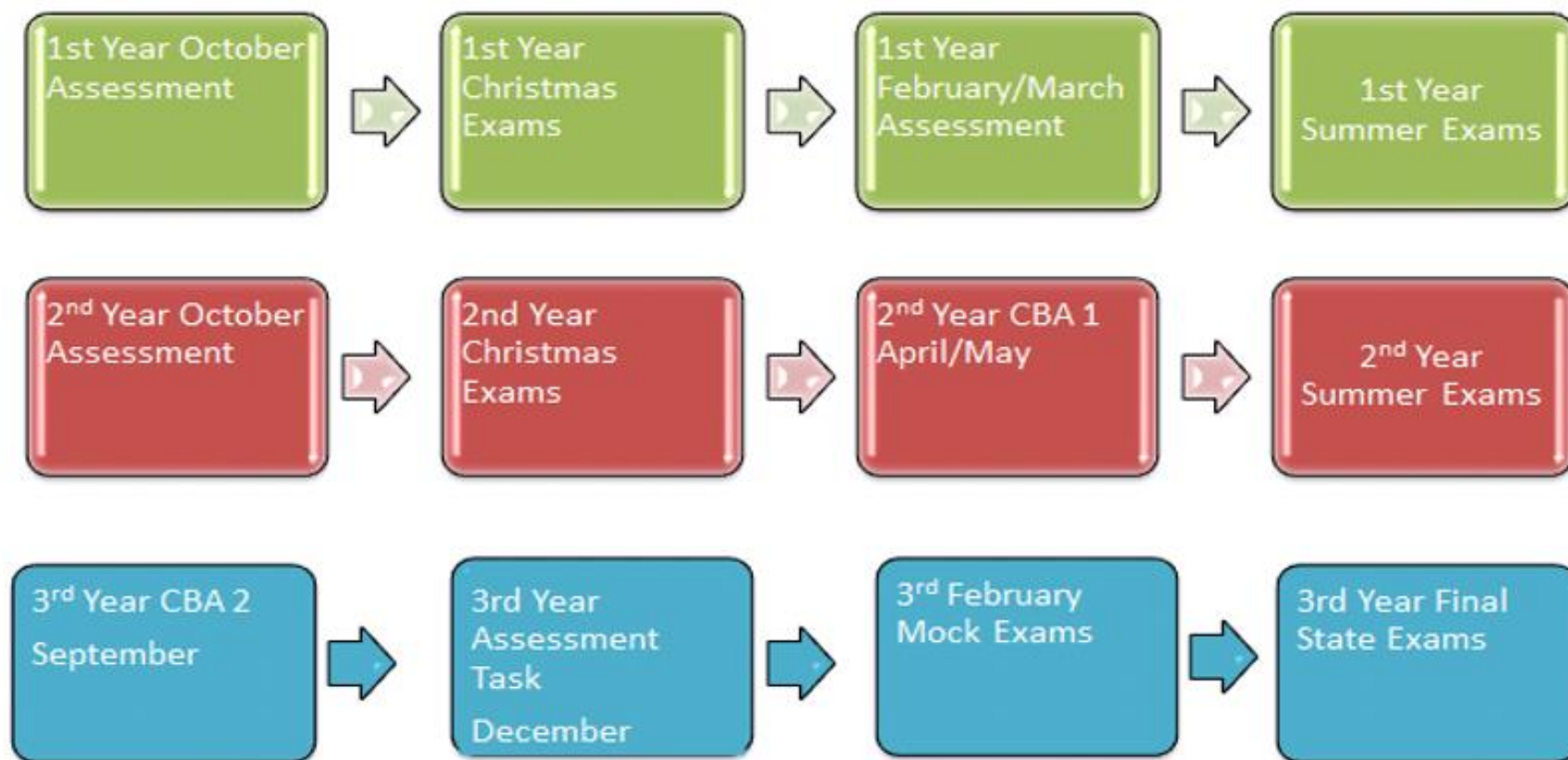
Time
for
Exams

Reporting

The final exam will be reported using the following grading system

Grade	Range (%)
Distinction	≥ 90 to 100
Higher Merit	≥ 75 and < 90
Merit	≥ 55 and < 75
Achieved	≥ 40 and < 55
Partially Achieved	≥ 20 and < 40
(not graded)	≥ 0 and < 20

Assessment & Reporting



Reporting



The reporting process at Junior Cycle will culminate in the award of the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement to students. It will reward achievement across all areas of learning as is applicable to the student.

In summary - what will be different for your child?

- Smoother transition from primary to post primary
- Students more actively involved in their learning
- Greater emphasis on literacy, numeracy and the key skills
- More focus on learning how to learn
- Assessment will be part of everyday learning
- Combination of terminal exams with assessment of school work
- Improved feedback and reporting to parents/guardians

How can I support my child's learning?

- Show interest, ask questions, listen and affirm
- Read notes and progress reports that are sent home
- Attend school meetings and events
- Encourage your child to participate fully in learning opportunities both within and outside school
- Encourage your child to develop skills and take on challenges in and out of school
- Support them by creating structures and routines so that they can keep up with homework and project work
 - Promote good sleep, diet and exercise habits
- If you need more information, please contact the school

**You are the
greatest resource
in your child's
learning**

