

Welcome

Information Evening for Parents/Guardians of Incoming First Years.

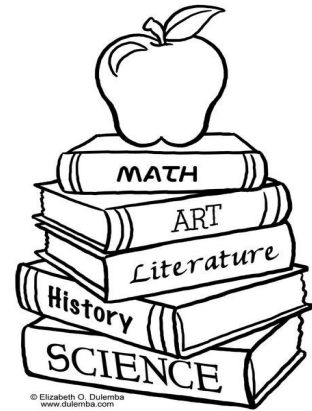
Presented by:

Principal: Jean Ryan

Deputy Principal: Fergal O'Callaghan

Guidance Department: Barbara Eustace

Year Head: Joanna Martin



Presentation will be put up on the school website so no need to take notes/photos.



Parents

- Introductions
- Role of the Year Head - Tutor system
- Subject Choice
- Student Support services
- Some general school information
- Attendance
- Uniform
- The school journal
- Homework and study
- Preparing for First Year

Role of the Year Head

Joanna Martin

My role can be split into three main areas:

1. Monitor and Support Academic Progress
2. Promote Student Wellbeing
3. Implement the school's Code of Behaviour



Role of the Year Head



1. Monitor and Support Academic Progress:

- Monitoring homework and classwork through journal checks and tutor report forms - Liaise with tutor
- Communicate with parents/guardians to discuss concerns raised through the tutor system or by class teachers.
- Recommend and support strategies and paths towards achieving goals.
- Refer students to the Guidance Department if necessary.
- Refer students to the AEN department for possible support.
- Hold assemblies to praise and encourage students in their efforts.

Role of the Year Head



2. Promote Student Wellbeing

- Liaise with others to ensure that our students are given every support possible.
- Communicate with parents/guardians, tutors and teachers.
- Engage with the Cairde Committee and assist them in enforcing the school's anti-bullying policy.
- Acknowledge students' achievements and encourage participation in extra-curricular activities.

Role of the Year Head



3. Implement the school's Code of Behaviour

- VSware checks daily to identify issues arising.
- Interview students regarding any issues that arise.
- Communicate with parents/guardians.
- Facilitate meetings with parents/guardians.
- Issue relevant sanctions.
- Refer to DP/Principal if necessary.
- Refer to pastoral care team if necessary.
- Meet with students to discuss behavioural challenges and devise a plan for moving forward.

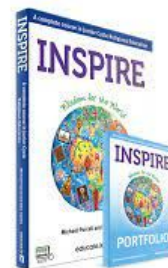
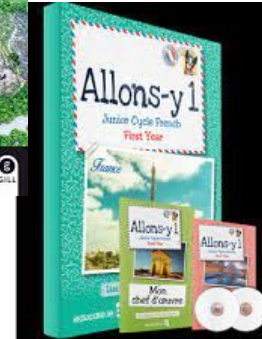
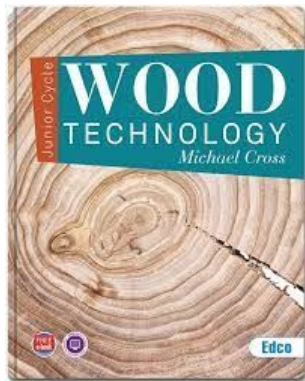
Tutor System & VSware



- Each class has a tutor that they meet with every Friday for 20 minutes.
- The role of the tutor is to:
 - Check in with the students in a pastoral care sense.
 - Monitor VSware and report any concerns/issues to the year head on an ongoing basis.
 - Review journals to confirm that they are signed by parents/guardians and that VSware is being checked weekly.
- You have access to view information on VSware and we encourage that you view this weekly as you will be able to monitor homework, equipment and other notes as they arise.

Subjects

- Barbara Eustace



First Year Curriculum

11

• Core
Subjects

3

• Options
subjects

Range of Subjects

Compulsory Core Subjects

1. English
2. Irish*
3. Maths
4. History
5. Geography
6. Science
7. S.P.H.E
8. C.S.P.E
9. Religion
10. P.E.
11. I.T.

Students choose any 3
Options from the list below



- French
- German
- Business
- Home Economics
- Art
- Music
- Technical Graphics
- Wood Technology
- Engineering

Students currently sit 10 subjects for their Junior Cert*

Remember students currently don't sit an exam for the following subjects at Junior cert:

- I.T. (Information technology)**
- P.E. (Physical Education)**
- C.S.P.E (Civic, Social & Political Education)**
- S.P.H.E. (Social, Personal & Health Education)**

Exemptions From Irish

- All up to date information can be found in Department of education [Circular 0055/2022-](#)

An exemption from the study of Irish may be allowed in the following circumstances

- A student moving from a different country without previous experience of learning the Irish language
- A student who experiences significant literacy difficulties which are an obstacle to their learning across the curriculum
- A student who experiences a high level of multiple and persistent needs that are a significant barrier to the student's participation and engagement in their learning and school life

If your child is exempt in primary school please pass on the documentation to us !

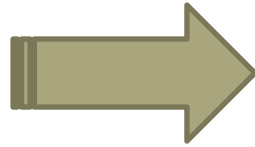
For any questions please contact our AEN dept :

smcnamara@boynecs.ie/ celliffe@boynecs.ie

Students choose 3 from the list of Options below

1. German

2. French



Languages

3. Wood Technology

4. Engineering

5. Graphics



Practical subjects

6. Art, Craft & Design

7. Music

8. Home Economics.

9. Business



Artistic and Social

Factors to
consider before
making a decision

Factors students should consider when choosing Option Subjects

- **Interest in subject area.**
- **Ability & Aptitude.**
- **Future College & Career implications**

Modern Language Requirement

French/ German/ Student's own native language.

NUI Colleges

- U.C.D.
- U.C.C.
- NUI Maynooth
- NUI Galway

Recognised Colleges of NUI

- Royal college of Surgeons.
- Shannon College of Hotel Mgt
- St. Angela's College Sligo

Entry to these colleges requires a Modern Language
***Except for Engineering & Science courses ...including Nursing & Computer Science**

Modern Language Requirement

A Modern language is required for the majority of courses at N.U.I . Colleges (i.e. UCD/ NUI Maynooth/ UCG/UCC)

For example :

- Arts
- Law / politics
- Commerce / Finance / Economics
- Health Sciences (Medicine / Dentistry / Pharmacy/ Veterinary etc)
- Human Sciences: (philosophy / psychology / philosophy etc)
- Social Science.
- Music / Drama/ Sports

A Modern Language is not a specific requirement for the following institutions. Instead Irish & English is accepted.

Non NUI Universities

- Trinity College.
- D.C.U. (Dublin City University)
- University of Limerick
- Queen's University of Belfast.

Technological Universities and Institutes Technology

- TU Dublin
- Munster TU
- TUShannon
- South East TU
- Atlantic TU
- IADT
- DKIT

However some of their **Business & Language** courses do require a modern language.

Implications for the Leaving Cert

Important:

Leaving Cert students continue with the 3 core subjects and select 4 option subjects.

It is very difficult to take up a new Subject Option at Senior Cycle if you haven't already studied it for three years at Junior Cycle.



Subject Taster Day

- The students will have 15 minutes with a teacher of each of the option subjects
- Students will learn about what is involved in studying each of the subjects and what skills are needed
- All students will be given a booklet with information about each subject
- There will also be a page where they can write their own reviews on each subject .
- Students will also have 15 minutes as a group with a guidance counsellor where they will learn what they need to do and consider before choosing subjects .

Subject Taster Day

Please take some time to sit with your son and daughter and review their notes and talk about their experience.



shutterstock.com - 2356777921

How can I find out more about all the Option Subjects?

For a short concise description of each of our option subjects please visit our website

<https://boynecs.ie/1st-year-options-choices/>

It is really important that you watch these videos with your son/daughter and discuss each subject before choosing .

How can I find out more about all the Option Subjects?


<https://www.curriculumonline.ie/Junior-Cycle/>



www.curriculumonline.ie

Ncca.ie


Or Google - NCCA subject fact sheets



Junior Certificate **Fact Sheet**

CSPE

Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE) is taught to all Junior Certificate students. It aims to help you to become actively involved in your community, your country and the wider world.



What will I learn in CSPE?
In CSPE class you will get a chance to think about questions such as:

- what does it mean to be an active citizen?
- how can I get involved in my community?
- how can I make a difference?
- what are human rights?
- how can I play a part in protecting the environment?

But you will do more than just thinking about these things. You will be taking action!

How will CSPE connect with the world outside of school?
CSPE is all about understanding our community, our society and the wider world; how each work and how we can make them better.

Some of the things you may do are:


- take part in an environmental project, such as recycling, in your local area
- organise a visit to a local court
- support a campaign for children's rights
- watch what's happening in the news
- discuss the topics that come up in class with your family and friends.

How will I learn CSPE in school?
Being active in the classroom is very important in CSPE. Some of the things you may do with your teacher and classmates are:

- work on your own, but also in pairs and in groups
- discuss and debate topics in class
- learn through games, role play, photos and other activities
- use newspapers, magazines, books and the Internet to find out information
- invite a guest speaker into the class or go on a trip outside of school.

Some other things that will help you learn in class are:

- asking questions
- keeping a file of your notes and handouts as they will be useful for learning and for revision
- finding out how voting works by organising a mock election in your class.



Choosing the right options!

Do	Don't
Choose subjects you enjoy	Choose a subject because your friend is taking it
Choose subjects you are good at	Choose a subject just because somebody else told you it was easy/good
Choose subjects you need for your chosen career	Choose a subject because you think it will be easy
Keep your options open for the future by making a balanced choice now	Choose a new subject without finding out more about it
Talk to your Guidance Counsellor and your teachers	Make a decision at the last minute without thinking about it
Talk to your parents or guardians	But don't panic

Remember

- There are no easy options!
- To succeed in your chosen subject it requires hard work, dedication & commitment.

Students need to:

- ❖ Engage fully with their Class Work.
- ❖ Complete Homework to a high standard.
- ❖ Revise weekly.

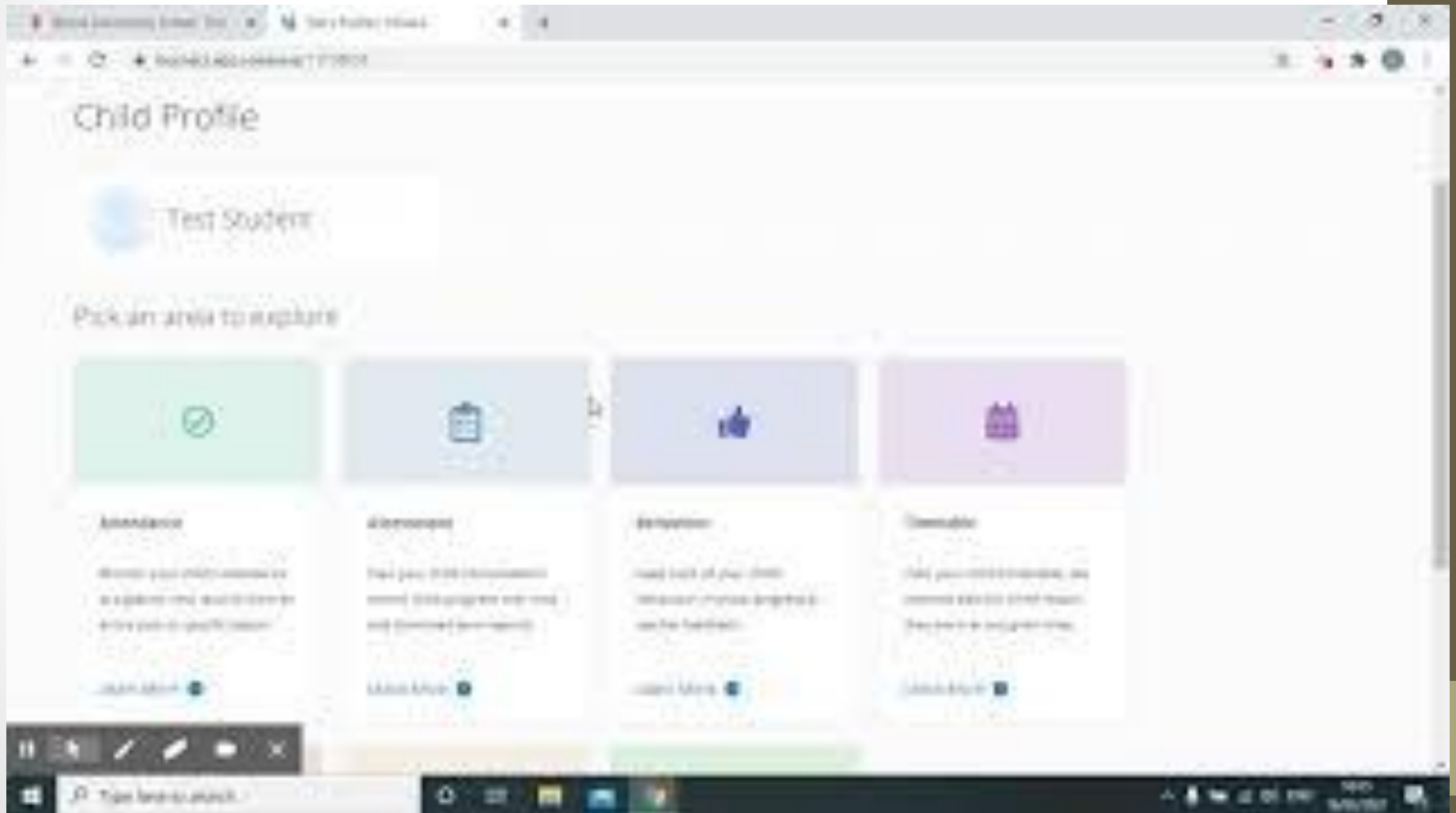
Consistent hard work pays off!

What if I choose the wrong option?

Students may only change an subject option in the following circumstances:

- ❑ Once it is within the first month – end of September
- ❑ **Availability:** If there is space in the subject.
For example, the Department stipulate a maximum of 24 students in Practical classes.
- ❑ Legitimate reasons for changing: extreme difficulty in subject.

VSware and Options



Vs ware access to input options

Vs ware will **open on Friday 9th for inputting options**- a text will be sent out to all to alert you to this.

The **Deadline** for inputting Subject options is

February 23rd 2024



Assessments for Incoming First Years

- The **Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4)** is an assessment designed to measure students' core abilities in the four areas most linked to academic success in school:
 - Verbal
 - Quantitative
 - Non-verbal
 - Spatial

It identifies a pupil's strengths, weaknesses and learning preferences in the above.

Students also completed the *New Group Reading Test (NRGT)* - This enables the assessment of reading and comprehension in a single test, helping to identify, for instance, competent readers with weak comprehension skills .

- **The main purpose of the assessments is to identify the students who need extra support.**
- **It is not used to stream classes but to ensure mixed ability groupings in First Year.**

Transition to Post-Primary

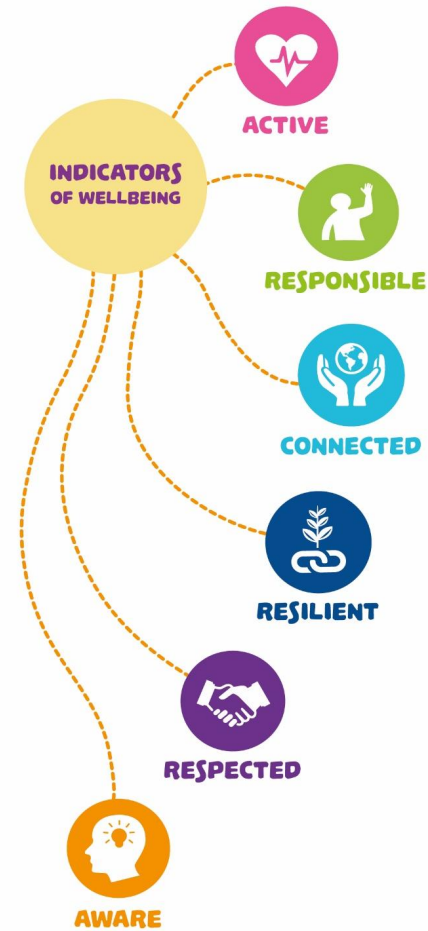
Mixed Feelings for students:

- Fear & anticipation.
 - Fresh start & new beginning.
 - Huge change.
-
- ✓ Support & Encourage.
 - ✓ Positive Approach.

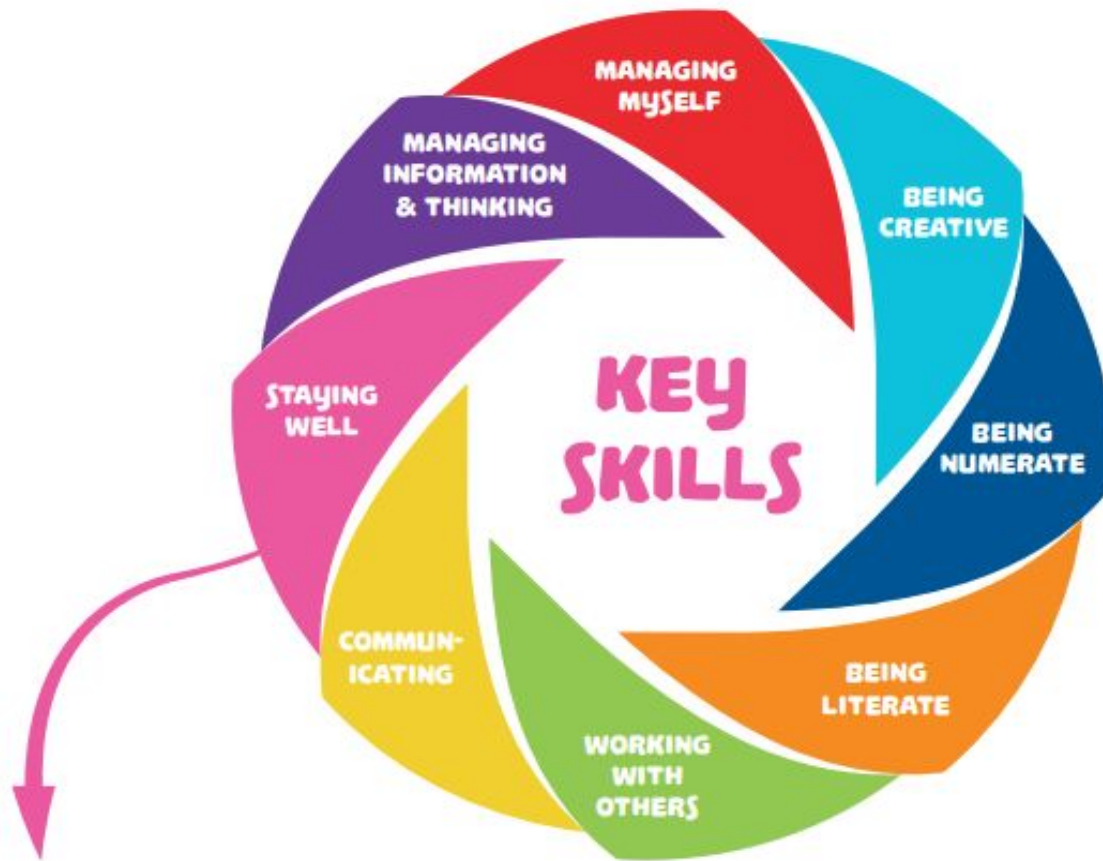
Wellbeing

- A whole school endeavour

Student wellbeing is present when students realise their abilities, take care of their physical wellbeing, can cope with the normal stresses of life, and have a sense of purpose and belonging to a wider community



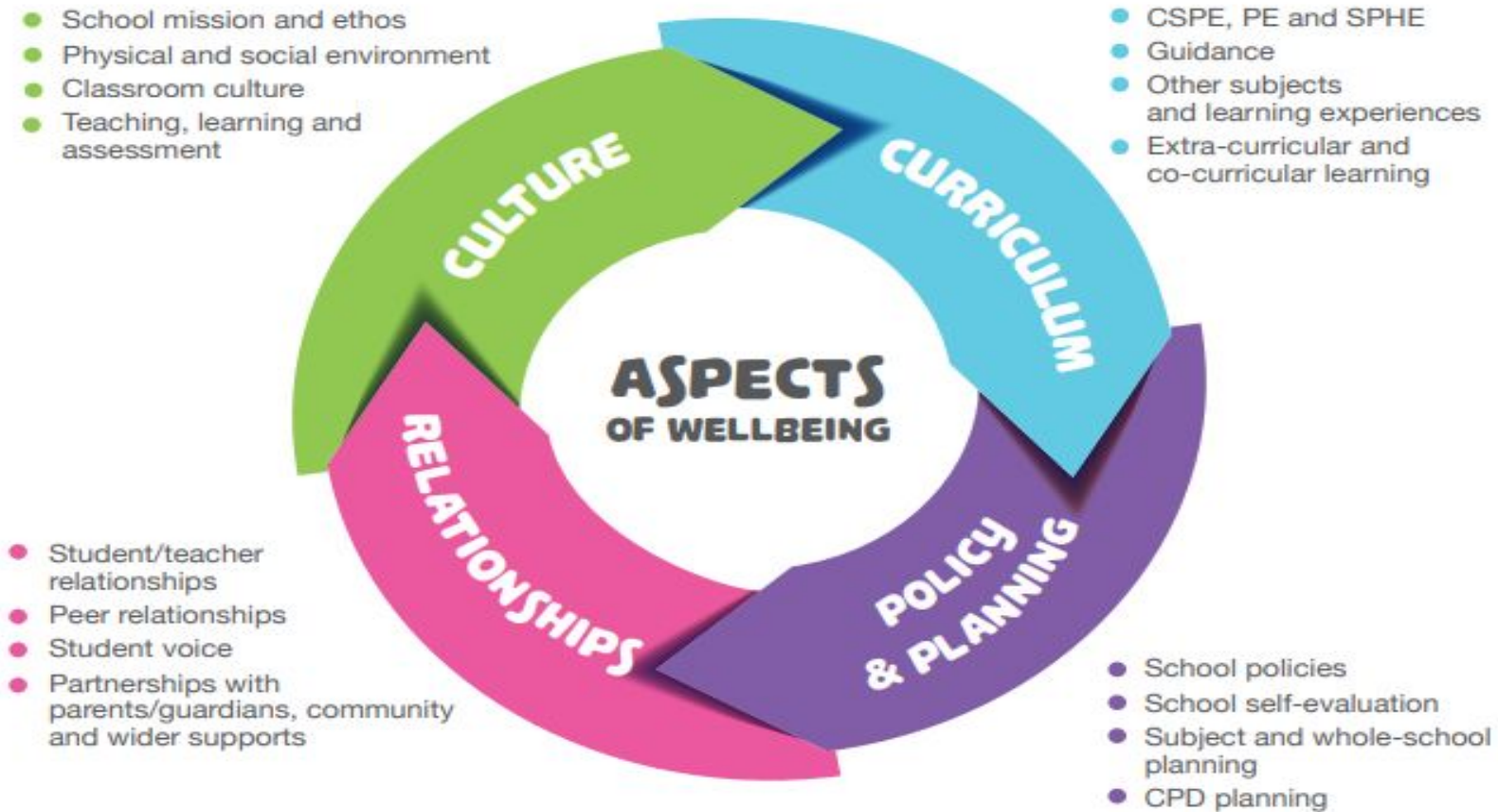
WELLBEING AND THE FRAMEWORK FOR JUNIOR CYCLE



WELLBEING AND THE FRAMEWORK FOR JUNIOR CYCLE



Whole School Wellbeing



Supports in the School

MENTOR+PROGRAMMES




CHAPLAIN



Supports in the School

- Home School Liaison Officer
- School Completion Officer
- Additional Educational Needs Team and Cuán Slán
- Tutor System
- Year Head System
- Get up, Stand up
- Friends for Life Programme
- Circle Time
- Cairde Committee
- Check & Connect
- Restorative Practice



There is always
someone to
support you.

Lunchtime activities



Walking Club



Green-Schools

Extra-curricular Activities

- Debating
- Hurling/ Camogie
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Choir
- Band
- Football
- Irish Club
- Colouring club
- Coding Club
- Mentor activities
- Walking club
- Craft Group

- And lots more!!!

How to contact us:

For queries around Subject Choice, contact the Guidance Department:

- Barbara Eustace beustace@boynecs.ie
- Amanda Harrington aharrington@boynecs.ie
- Teresa Connaughton tconnaughton@boynecs.ie

For all other queries contact the office-

Info@boynecs.ie - They will direct your queries to the relevant person.

Starting in Secondary School

Working with Primary schools- Transfer Team meet with Primary School teachers.

We have shared sample timetables, map of school, information with regard to school day to help prepare students.

Start date in late August - Transition day for First Years only.
Fifth Yr mentors here to help with first few days.

Getting the basics right at the start.

Some General School Information

Our school day

- Classes start at 8:50 am- Monday to Thursday and 8:40 on Friday.
- Students should be in school at least 10 minutes before this. (lockers etc)
- Lunch Break at 11:50- 12:50
- School day finishes at 3:50pm (monday-thursday)
- School finishes at 1:15pm on Friday

Some General School Information

Lockers

- Students must sign up if they want a locker- Notice regarding this will be sent to parents.
- Lockers can only be used before classes commence, lunchtime and at the end of the school day.

Some General School Information

Free Book Scheme

- All text books and materials are available.
- Books mislaid or returned in a poor condition must be paid for.
- Information letter will be sent to parents in the coming weeks

Some General School Information

Parent Tutor Calls

- Phone call at the end of September with Class tutor.
- General check in on how son/daughter is settling and how you as a parent are managing Vs ware etc.
- Notification will be sent prior to call with an indication of day and time.

Some General School Information

Parent Teacher Meetings

- 1st year date = February 2025
- Notification will be sent prior to meeting- indicate preferences and given time to see various teachers.

Attendance

- Very important your child attends everyday.

Attendance awards on a monthly basis.

- Please notify us if student will be absent and contact us if you are concerned about attendance.
-

Attendance

- Attendance Committee meet every week - contact with home in the form of letters/visits etc.
- HSCL plays a big role in supporting parents if difficulties arise with attendance.
- 20 days or more missed (in one year) must be reported to the Education Welfare Services.

Some General School Information

WHEN A STUDENT NEEDS TO LEAVE

Please aim to have all appointments outside of school time.

Lost time in school is hard to catch up.

Your son/daughter needs to be signed out by yourself. This can be done at the attendance office. This office is just inside the main door on your left.

Some General School Information

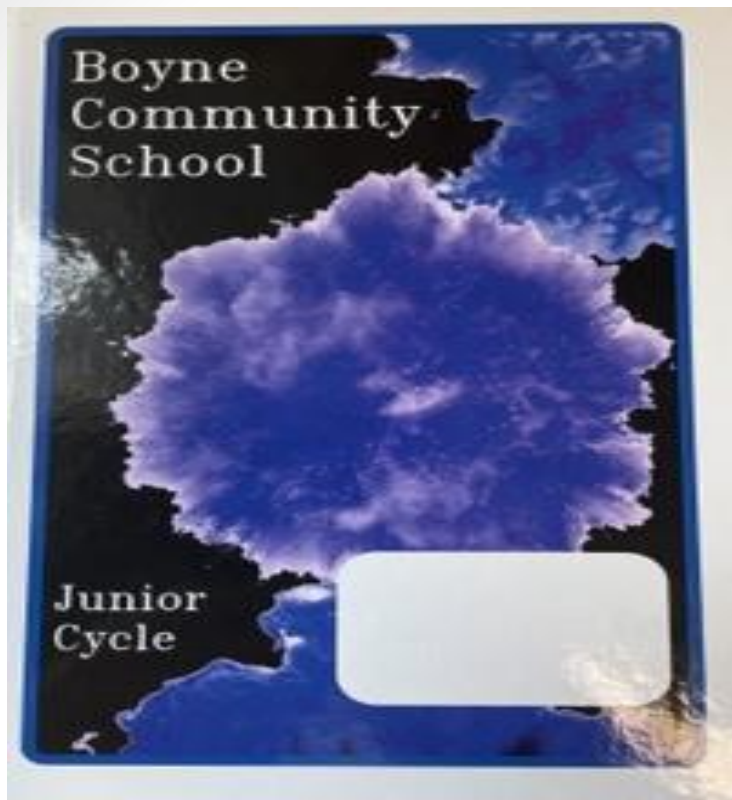
MEDICAL ISSUES

Please ensure the school have up to date medical information for your child, if you deem it appropriate for us to know.

Some General School Information

Uniform

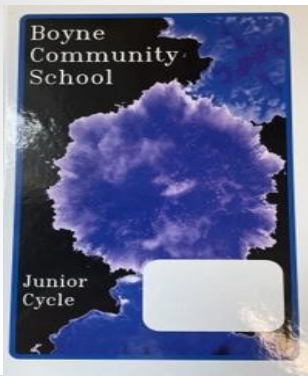
- Full uniform must be worn at all times.
- PE Uniform on PE days only.
- Please put names on items of clothing- in particular school jacket.



MY TIMETABLE

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 8:45-9:15					PAUSE 8:50-9:00
2 9:15-9:45					PAUSE 9:10-9:20
3 9:45-10:15					RESTURE BREAK
4 10:15-10:45					PAUSE 10:20-10:30
5 11:00-12:00	L U N C H				PAUSE 11:30-11:40
6 12:30-1:30					PAUSE 12:30-1:30
7 1:30-2:30					CLOSED HALF DAY
8 2:30-3:30					

THE SCHOOL JOURNAL



The School Journal

- Students must have their journal in school each day.
- Students must present their journal to parents and teachers when requested.
- Please ensure all agreements are signed by you and your son / daughter.

The School Journal

- There is a section at the back for correspondence between home and school should you wish to send a note.
- Please check the weekly report and sign regularly.

To Do List

SUNDAY

Don't Forget

I have reviewed my son's/daughter's records on VShare for this week.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____



Homework and Study

This should look familiar....

- There are no easy subjects!
- To succeed in your chosen subject it requires hard work, dedication & commitment.

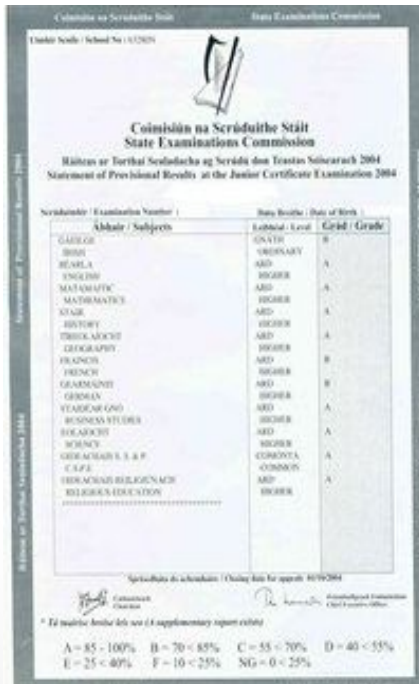
Students need to:

- ❖ Engage fully with their Class Work.
- ❖ Complete Homework to a high standard.
- ❖ Revise weekly.

Consistent hard work pays off!

Building the JCPA.

- Engagement in learning
- Engagement in school life.



JUNIOR CYCLE PROFILE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Mary Murphy 2020

State Certified Final Examinations	Classroom-Based Assessments - Subjects
Irish L2 (H) - Achieved	Language Portfolio - In line with Expectations
Mathematics (H) - B	Communicative Task - Above Expectations
English (H) - Achieved	Oral Communication - In line with Expectations
Business Studies (C) - Distinction	The Collection of the Student's Texts - Above Expectations
French (C) - Higher Merit	Business in Action - Above Expectations
Geography (H) - A	Presentation - In line with Expectations
History (H) - C	Oral Communication - Above Expectations
Science (C) - Higher Merit	Student Language Portfolio - Above Expectations
Visual Art (C) - Higher Merit	Extended Experimental Investigation - In line with Expectations
	Science in Society Investigation - Above Expectations
	Visual Art - From Process to Realisation - In line with Expectations
	Visual Art - Communicate and Reflect - Exceptional

Other Areas of Learning	Classroom-Based Assessments - Short Courses
Mary took part in a school drama performance, learned to express herself and build her communication skills.	Digital Media Literacy - Above Expectations
Mary participated in the school Science Competition (Let's Explore) where she developed ways to recycle plastic. In doing so, she learned to bring an idea from conception to realisation.	Philosophy - In line with Expectations
Mary through her role as Class Representative learned to communicate effectively as a voice for the students in her class.	
Mary worked collaboratively with others in the organisation and promotion of the school carol service for the local community.	
Mary was a member of the school camogie team, where she committed to training and developed her confidence in physical activity.	

Wellbeing
CSPE - Not Reported
SPHE - Not Reported
PE - Above Expectations

Other Areas of Wellbeing
In SPHE, Mary reflected on and learned about the changing patterns of teenage friendship and how best to manage relationships.
Mary completed a project in CSPE where she learned about the social and economic impact of homelessness.
As part of the school's Wellbeing Programme, Mary participated in Lockers where she learned about the influence of social media, peer pressure and stereotypes in the digital world.

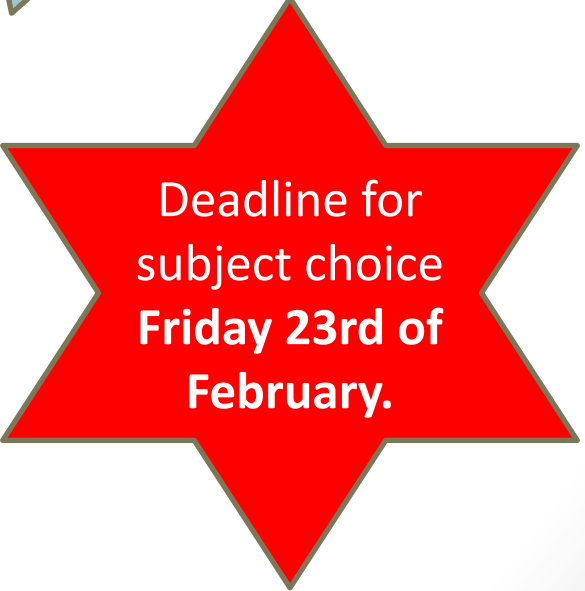
Principal	Year head	Roll Number: 60478Q
Colman Candy	Ann Howett	Anytown Secondary School Anytown Co. Any County

This JCPA recognises and records achievements in Junior Cycle.

“
It is the big
choices we
make that set
our direction.
It is the
smallest
choices we
make that get
us to the
destination.”



Thank you for
your attention.



Deadline for
subject choice
**Friday 23rd of
February.**