



News for First Year Parents

Christmas Assessments

Over the coming weeks, first year students will be completing different assignments and class based exams that will go towards their overall Christmas results. The new structure of our Christmas exams reflects the changes that have been taking place nationally with Junior Cycle reform. Our Christmas assessment arrangements aim to provide students with opportunities that achieve a balance between learning subject knowledge and developing a wide range of skills and thinking abilities.

The varied approaches to assessment will recognise and value the different types of learning that takes place in the various subjects and will allow for a more rounded assessment of our students.

It is hoped that this issue of the newsletter will help you assist your child in preparing for these assessments.



Study Tips

These tips will help your student stay on top of your studies:

- 1) Start early and make a study schedule
- 2) Create a to-do list and set targets - tick things off as you go
- 3) Remember to include breaks and leisure time
- 4) Find a place where you can study - where do you work best?
- 5) Try different types of revision techniques based on your preferred learning style (visual, auditory or kinesthetic)
- 6) Avoid distractions when you are working - put the phone away and turn off WiFi



What's on the test?

The table below outlines what topics/concepts are being covered in each subject for Term 1 and shows how each subject will be assessed for Christmas

Subject	Topics/Concepts covered in Term 1	Christmas Assessment
English	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Creative writing 2) Oral communication 3) Poetry 4) Letter writing - Formal 	Continuous assessment based on a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative writing piece • Response to a poem • Formal letter/Blog
Gaeilge (Irish)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Mé féin agus mó theaghlach (me and my family) 2) An Scoil (school) 	Continuous assessment based on a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comhrá (oral communication task) and • End of term class exam

Subject	Topics and Concepts covered in Term 1	Christmas Assessment
Mathematics	1) Natural number 2) Integers 3) Fractions 4) Decimals 5) Percentages 6) Sets 7) Probability	Four Class tests - 25% each <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test 1: Natural numbers, integers and • Test 2: Percentages • Test 3: Sets • Test 4: Probability
History	1) Key historical concepts 2) Romans 3) Early Christian Ireland 4) Life and death in medieval times	Continuous assessment based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key historical concepts (class test) • Romans (visual display) • Early Christian Ireland (essay) • Life and death in medieval times (class test)
Geography	1) Earth's surface 2) Rocks 3) Map work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One class test from Sept/October • One class test from Nov/Dec • One project/portfolio report from the term
Modern foreign languages (French & German)	1) Greetings and introductions 2) Alphabet 3) Numbers 1 – 100 4) Map of France/Germany 5) Class instructions 6) Polite forms 7) Days and months 8) Birthday cards and invitations 9) Seasons with a focus on Halloween and Christmas 10) Adjectives 11) Basic verbs (to have and to be) 12) Gender of nouns 13) Family 14) House and where you live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written assessment • Oral presentation • Portfolio work
Science	1) Scientific method 2) The organisation of life 3) What is matter made of? 4) Measuring the physical world 5) Space	Continuous assessment based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class exam at the end of option rotation on the organisation of life and measuring the physical world (20%) • Experimental investigation presented as a word document (ICT assessment) (40%) and • End of term class exam (40%)

Subject	Topics and Concepts covered in Term 1	Christmas Assessment
Religion	1) 5 major world religions 2) Communities of Faith 3) Understanding of God 4) Prayer 5) Stages of Faith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz on five world religions (group work) Research and presentation on one community of faith in your local area (individual) Paragraph on prayer
Art	1) Continuous assessment on students work in class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous assessment on students work in class
Music	1) Elements of Music 2) Rhythms and note values 3) Composition 4) Practical performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Composition by portfolio Participation in practical performance
Business Studies	1) Income 2) Understanding pay 3) Expenditure 4) Preparing budgets	Four Class tests - 25% each on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test 1: Income Test 2: Understanding pay Test 3: Expenditure Test 4: Preparing budgets
Woodwork	1) Sawing 2) Planing 3) Marking out 4) Finishing	Continuous assessment in class. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of students completed work.
Metalwork	1) Cutting 2) Filing 3) Polishing 4) Drilling	3 class based projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone holder Photo frame Coat Hook
Technical Graphics	1) Using equipment 2) Drawing (learning to draw and lines and inclined lines)	Continuous assessment in class. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of students completed work.
Home Economics	1) Textile trends and choices 2) Sewing skills 3) Textile care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class exam (sewing skills and textile care) – 50% Christmas Wreath (Textile work) – 50%