

## Revised arrangements for the completion of Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) for the cohort of students 2018 – 2021 (current 2nd Years entering 3<sup>rd</sup> Year in 2020)

May 2020

Students returning to school in the next school year will have experienced a disrupted period of learning in 2019/20 because of the unprecedented effects of measures such as school closure introduced to curtail the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the best efforts of teachers and schools to mitigate the effects of disrupted schooling, the learning experience of students has varied across schools. In this context, schools and next year's third year students could experience an unfair and disproportionate challenge in having Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs) from the academic year 2019/20 along with the CBAs from the academic year 2020/21 to complete, when schools resume for the new school year.

The following assessment arrangements for CBAs will now apply:

- The requirement related to CBA completion for this cohort of students has been changed. In the exceptional circumstances prevailing, each student must complete only one CBA in each subject and short course taken rather than the usual two in each subject.
- Current deadline dates for completion of CBAs for second year students (in the academic year 2019/20) have been extended into the first term of the school year 2020/21. Schools may wish to, and be able to, complete CBAs in the remaining period of the current term.
- The school management and its teachers, in discussion where feasible with students, will choose the one CBA to complete for each subject. However, there will be some exceptions to this choice:
  - To ensure assessment of oral communications skills, students must complete CBA 2: Communicative Task in Irish and CBA 1: Oral Communication in Modern Foreign Languages.
  - As they are linked in each case with the final examination in the subject, students studying Visual Art, Home Economics, and Music must complete CBA 2.

- Students will still be required to complete an Assessment Task (AT) related to the final examination in their subjects. However, while currently the AT is associated with CBA 2, the AT for this cohort of students will be associated with the particular CBA chosen, either CBA 1 or CBA 2. All Assessment Tasks will be undertaken following completion of CBA 2s in third year.
- The design of the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) for 2021 will need to be adjusted to take account of the revised arrangements for CBAs.

Whilst these arrangements for CBAs are a response to a specific, exceptional challenge, they also aim to:

- Encourage school autonomy and acknowledge teaching and learning decisions that have been made at school level in recent months
- Reduce the number of CBAs that schools will need to schedule and complete in the first term of the school year 2020/21
- Ensure, as far as possible, that CBAs completed by second year students in the academic year 2019/20 (in school or remotely) can be recognised and reported on in the student's JCPA
- Reduce the overall number of CBAs to be completed thus mitigating potential over-assessment of this cohort of students in third year.