

Junior Cycle Developments; Update

John Halbert spoke on:

- Update on JC developments: End of Stage 2 – consultation completed
- Draft Framework for Junior cycle the main outcome
- Work to come
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Framework for Junior Cycle

Consultation:

- A need for reform
- Renew learning and teaching
- Contribute to greater equity and inclusion
- Continuity with primary education and senior cycle

Draft Framework:

- A new way for students to encounter junior cycle
- All aspects at the service of learning and teaching
- Combination of strong framework for all with local flexibility
- Junior Cycle's own identity - the engaged learner and future citizen

Curriculum and Education Programmes

Consultation:

- Common/core learning for all
- Maintain the breadth of the curriculum
- Reduce content
- Emphasis on skills and practical/creative subjects

Draft Framework:

- Literacy and numeracy
- Key skills
- Required areas of learning for all
- Continuing role of subjects and specifications
- Flexibility to use other curriculum components

Key skills for junior cycle

- Managing Myself
- Staying well
- Communicating
- Being Creative
- Working with Others
- Managing Information and Thinking

Areas of Learning

- The Arts
- Language
- Mathematical thinking
- Moral and religious education
- Science
- Social studies
- Technology
- Wellbeing

Evidence of Learning

Consultation:

- Mixed views on retaining the Junior Certificate in its current form
- Reduce the number of examinations
- Use a range of ways of gathering evidence of learning e.g. portfolio
- Support for teachers

Draft Framework:

- Aspects of Junior Certificate retained
- Scope for the balance between exams and other evidence of learning improved
- Major focus of teacher professional development as learning and evidence of learning connect

Bringing about and supporting change

Consultation:

- Teachers and schools as the focus of support
- New models – PD, local and area networks
- All schools change together
- Change at measured pace – engaging partners in incremental change

Implementation:

- Clear plan
- Changes introduced on a phased basis
- Developmental approach to working with schools and teachers
- Identify the supports and resources needed
- Built-in evaluation and review

Framework for Junior Cycle Next Steps

- Completed
- Consultation Report published
- Draft Framework (ongoing)
- Planning for bringing about and supporting junior cycle change
- Note on links between JC and SC developments
- Followed by Symposium
- Presentation of Draft Framework
- Commence further consultation or developmental work