**Junior Cycle 2020**

The following information has been sent by the Management Body to Secondary schools.

1. Students in recognised schools are required to study subject and short courses in accordance with the Junior Cycle Programme as set out in DES Circular 0055/2019

2. Students are not required to undertake Junior Cycle final examinations in 2020.

3. Schools are free to use the assessments provided through the NCCA and SEC, but they are also free to design and organise the assessment of students’ progress in accordance with their own Schools policies

4. Examination fees in respect of this year’s Junior Cycle will not apply.

In relation to the Junior Cycle examinations, Classroom-Based Assessments, Assessment Tasks and project work, the Minister believes that it would be preferable that discussions with the education partners are concluded**before** schools consider their assessment arrangements for Junior Cycle students in 2020. The Minister for Education is expected to make an announcement shortly to bring more clarity to the situation.

We will not be making a rushed decision on this and are waiting for further information and clarity on the options from the Department of Education & Skills.