



1941  
2016  
Celebrating  
75 years

## Music at Junior Cycle

### *Junior Certificate*

Brief Summary of Course Content:

**Practical Examination** (performance examination in March/April) – **20%**

**Listening and Composing Written Paper** (June examination) – **80%**

#### Practical 20%

Students are invited to prepare a programme of music on her chosen instrument/s to perform in front of an external examiner. Students can begin an instrument in first year of secondary school and can be successful in obtaining a high mark in their performance in 3<sup>rd</sup> Year. Prior musical experience is not required to study music at secondary school level. Students are asked to perform **four pieces on one instrument** (pieces can be performed as part of a small group if desired), or **two pieces on two separate instruments**.

#### Listening and Composing – 80%

Students will study **three set works** by well-known composers and **eight set songs**. Students will discover key features within the music such as instruments present, tonality, texture, tempo, melodic and rhythmic features and the style of the music studied. Students are also given an opportunity to listen to an unstudied piece of music and are asked to answer questions based on the recording heard.

**Irish Music** is also explored with the Junior Cert Music Syllabus. Irish instruments, dances, singing styles, performers and Irish music fusions are discovered within the curriculum.

#### New Junior Cycle

The new Junior Cycle Music specification will be introduced to schools in Autumn 2018. The specification for Junior Cycle Music focuses on giving students the opportunity to develop their musical knowledge, skills and cultural awareness through the practical and cognitive engagement with music. This can be achieved through the three interconnected strands:

- Procedural knowledge
- Innovate and ideate
- Culture and context

A student will experience learning in each of these three strands as they progress through their Junior Cycle.

The assessment of music for the purposes of the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) will comprise two Classroom-Based Assessments: Composition portfolio and a Programme note; a practical examination and a written examination. All assessments will be at a common level. The State Examinations Commission (SEC) will assess the practical examination (held towards the end of third year) and the written examination in June of third year.