



New video 'Orla' to promote changes to junior cycle released in cinemas

- The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment bring junior cycle changes to life in new animated short film -**

Friday August 19th: A new short animated film, entitled ['Orla'](#) is being rolled out in cinemas across Ireland today. The film charts Orla's story as she learns in the new junior cycle and outlines why the changes are being introduced and the benefits these will bring.

The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) has produced this animation to help students, their parents and carers learn more about the changes that are being implemented.

In 2014, the new junior cycle was introduced into Irish schools and will be rolled out on an incremental basis over the next 4 years. The changes to junior cycle aim to ensure young people will develop key skills whilst experiencing newly developed subjects and short courses. This has meant some changes to assessing how young people are progressing. Assessment will happen over the three years of junior cycle combined with an exam but without the pressure of having to assess three years of learning in one big exam. Teachers will have ongoing discussions with young people and their parents and carers as to how they are doing in school which will allow for development and improvement where necessary.

Young people starting first year in the next couple of weeks will take part in the new approaches to learning and assessment in English, Science and Business studies classes.

John Hammond, Acting Chief Executive of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment said: "We are really pleased to introduce 'Orla', which will help spread the word about the changes taking place at junior cycle. A new group of students will start post-primary school soon and we want them, their parents and carers to be clear on what they can expect from a changing junior cycle. The experience of a changing junior cycle should excite students about learning, involve them in learning, and help to develop the skills, understanding and personal qualities that will equip them for their continuing education and their future lives and work."

A spokesperson for the Department of Education and Skills said: "The release and screening of the video is a helpful contribution to the work of the Department of Education and Skills to ensure that parents and students are informed of the changes taking place at junior cycle."

You can view the extended version of this animation here;

<http://www.juniorcycle.ie/>

Irish Language version

<http://www.juniorcycle.ie/Info/Home?lang=en>

Find out more about the changes to the junior cycle on [juniorcycle.ie](http://www.juniorcycle.ie)

For more information, please contact Kelly Crichton on kcrichton@hamarketingpr.ie or 021 4666200.

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Notes to Editors

- To find out more about the changes to the Junior Cycle you can access [Framework for Junior Cycle 2015](#)