

# Junior Certificate

## Fact Sheet



# English

English is an international language spoken or being learned by people in almost every part of the world. In Junior Certificate English you will learn how to communicate more effectively with others and to express your point of view in many different ways. You will also have many opportunities to use your imagination and to find out about great writers. By the end of the Junior Certificate course, you should be better able to understand your world and to say what you think about it.



### What will I learn in English?

Some of the things you will learn include:

- how to communicate clearly
- how to speak and write in interesting ways about things that happen in your daily life
- how to explore different ways of using English e.g. interviewing, story telling, describing, newspaper reporting, writing advertisements or jokes etc.
- how to find out about the great writers of Ireland and the world, and enjoy reading some of their work.

### How will I learn English in St. Louis?

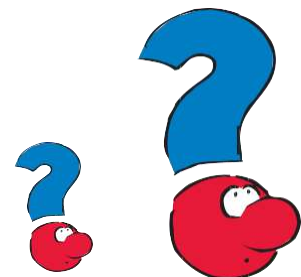
Some of the things you may do to learn more and to improve your English in the classroom are:

- work with a group to create a document e.g. a class newspaper
- listen to poems and stories
- read and think about a novel, a poem or a play
- compose poems or songs or longer pieces of writing
- ask and answer questions about what you read and hear
- re-write your work to make it better
- try your best at homework and assignments.
- Make presentations to your class

### How can I learn more about English outside of St. Louis?

Some of the things you may do on your own or with others are:

- watch the news or a TV programme and talk about it afterwards
- go to a play or film and do a review of it
- go to the library and ask the librarian about the books
- read a newspaper or a favourite magazine
- write and receive e-mails.



## How will I know how I am getting on?

Your teacher will let you know:

- what you did well
- where you need to improve
- what you could do to improve.

Other things you may do are:

- ask a friend to look at your work
- look back over your work and decide whether you have improved or not
- do a class test
- enter a competition.



## What is the English Junior Certificate exam like?

You may be asked to:

- write about your experiences and your opinions
- write a letter or a report or a speech
- respond to a poem
- write about a novel and a play that you have studied
- talk about TV programmes or newspaper articles or advertisements.

You may also be shown some short reading passages and you will answer questions on them.

You can take the exam at Foundation, Ordinary or Higher level. When the time comes to decide, your teacher will help you choose the level that suits you best.

## Is learning English anything like what I did in primary school?

Most of the time, it will be. You will do similar work and you will continue to gain confidence in speaking, reading and writing in English. As in primary school, learning English will help you to develop as a person. You will continue to learn about the wonderful power of words and to develop your imagination.



## Will English have anything to do with other subjects I will be studying?

Yes it will. As you get better at English you will get better at learning other languages. Having good English skills will also help you in presenting work for a range of other subjects e.g. History, Geography, Science and Home Economics.

## Will English be very different after the Junior Certificate?

In Leaving Certificate English you will continue to discuss important ideas and have a whole new course to enjoy.

You can look forward to exploring the works of new writers and reading books from Ireland and other countries.

## How will English be useful to me?

You can continue to improve your English all your life. The better you are at English the more you are likely to enjoy speaking, reading and writing.

Any third level course in English provides you with skills for a variety of positions in business, government, research, education, publishing, as well as in the cultural, entertainment, and communications industries.



For more information about the English course offered in St. Louis Community School please contact us on:

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Or e-mail us

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This fact sheet and other fact sheets are available to download from [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)

**NCCA**  National Council for Curriculum and Assessment  
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## English in St. Louis



The English department is vibrant and aims to develop in students a mature and critical literacy to prepare them well for State examinations and to nurture a lifelong appreciation for language.

St.Louis students have access to a reading corner that boasts the best in modern young adult fiction, including Kindles, audiobooks, comics, graphic novels and all the recent best sellers. Students are encouraged to read in their free time and to take part in extra-curricular activities like debating and writing competitions, as these activities greatly enhance their writing skills and improve their understanding of the language. We operate a paired and group reading programme for all junior cycle students and they are rewarded with Reading Awards based on the number of books they read and review.

Public speaking is very strong in St.Louis C.S. and our debating teams have had great success in the Concern debating competition. Each year, TY students participate in Public speaking competitions run by the Soroptimists and annual competition organised by the Mental Health Association. Our public speakers have even been invited to address GMIT students! The English department organise an annual spelling bee for first, second and TY students and an annual debating competition between classes in Junior Cycle and TY. This is hotly contested and is a highlight of our English calendar. The school magazine is published by Transition Year, with the co-operation of the English department. Students from the school won several English writing awards in recent years, including the Golden Pen poetry award, Kenny Naughton Short Story winners, digital photo-story, scriptwriting competition run by Bord Gais and a national poetry competition run by the National History Museum. Our department believe in acknowledging the efforts of all our students and we endeavour to display examples of good work in the classrooms. Most importantly, the English department put the **fun** in the thinking that English is fundamental!

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