



What you as TUI members have secured on Junior Cycle

In a national ballot conducted earlier this school year, TUI members voted to accept Junior Cycle proposals following negotiations between the unions and the Department of Education and Skills. The negotiations followed an extensive campaign of industrial action by TUI members.

What has been achieved?

- 1** **Has the Junior Certificate been saved from abolition?**
Yes. It will continue to be state certified with a terminal examination in June. The cost of retention of the Junior Certificate, which was in danger of abolition, is approximately €20m.
- 2** **Will the Junior Certificate continue to be fully externally assessed by the State Examinations Commission (SEC)?**
Yes. Teachers will not assess their own students for the Junior Certificate (ie there is no '60/40' split).
- 3** **Will the finished artefact/performance in Junior Cycle projects/practicals etc in Art, Music, Home Economics and the Technology subjects continue to be externally assessed?**
Yes. These will continue to be marked by the SEC.
- 4** **Will there also be a Student Profile of Achievement?**
Yes. This is to encourage schools to recognise other forms of student achievement not captured in the Junior Certificate. A school, not the SEC, will issue the Student Profile of Achievement.
- 5** **Will additional time be provided for teachers?**
Yes, and within timetable. From September 2017 a full-time teacher engaged in the Junior Cycle will have a weekly timetable comprising 40 minutes professional time and a maximum of 21 hours 20 minutes class contact time. The professional time comes to 22 hours per annum (pro-rata for part time teachers) and will create the equivalent of hundreds of new, full-time teaching positions at second level. This will help members on low-hour contracts in schools around the country.
- 6** **How can we be sure that there will be no new extra work imposed on teachers?**
An Implementation Committee comprised of both Union and Department of Education and Skills representatives will monitor implementation of the new programme. Through this body, TUI will ensure that the agreement delivers on its commitments and that there is no additional work imposed on teachers. For example, TUI, through the Implementation Committee, has organised a meeting of the relevant parties to resolve, ahead of the next school year, issues that have brought to our attention by teachers of English.