

Meeting of the Development Group of Junior Cycle Science

11<sup>th</sup> February 2013

<b>Agenda:</b>	<b>Discussion:</b>
Consultation report on background paper	A presentation was made to the group on the Consultation Report on the Background Paper that was recently approved by NCCA Council.
Learning outcomes	<p>The group discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The need for learning outcomes to be accompanied by support material.</li><li>• The number of learning outcomes per strand.</li><li>• The draft learning outcomes for the <i>materials</i> strand.</li><li>• How best to target gaps in understanding, and how to provide sufficient challenge to each student, whilst at the same time making science accessible to all.</li></ul> <p>The group split up into four teams to work on the learning outcomes for strands 2-5. The teams working on Materials, Earth and Space, and the Biological world were furnished with a first draft of learning outcomes based on feedback from the previous meeting.</p>
Assessment for certification	<p>The group discussed the following as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The purpose of practical science.</li><li>• The assessment of practical work as part of the school-based component.</li><li>• How to incorporate an element of directly assessed practical skills.</li><li>• The weighting of the marks for the assessment tasks</li></ul>
<p>These emerging issues were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The specification and CPD will need to address the concerns expressed in the consultation report.</li><li>• The content of the specification should be framed in such a way that learners should be able to build knowledge rather than add content.</li><li>• The adoption of a performance based assessment task could require for the tasks to be centrally devised in the initial years.</li></ul>	
<p><b>Next meeting:</b> The next meeting of the group is scheduled for 12<sup>h</sup> March 2014.</p>	