



The New Senior Cycle

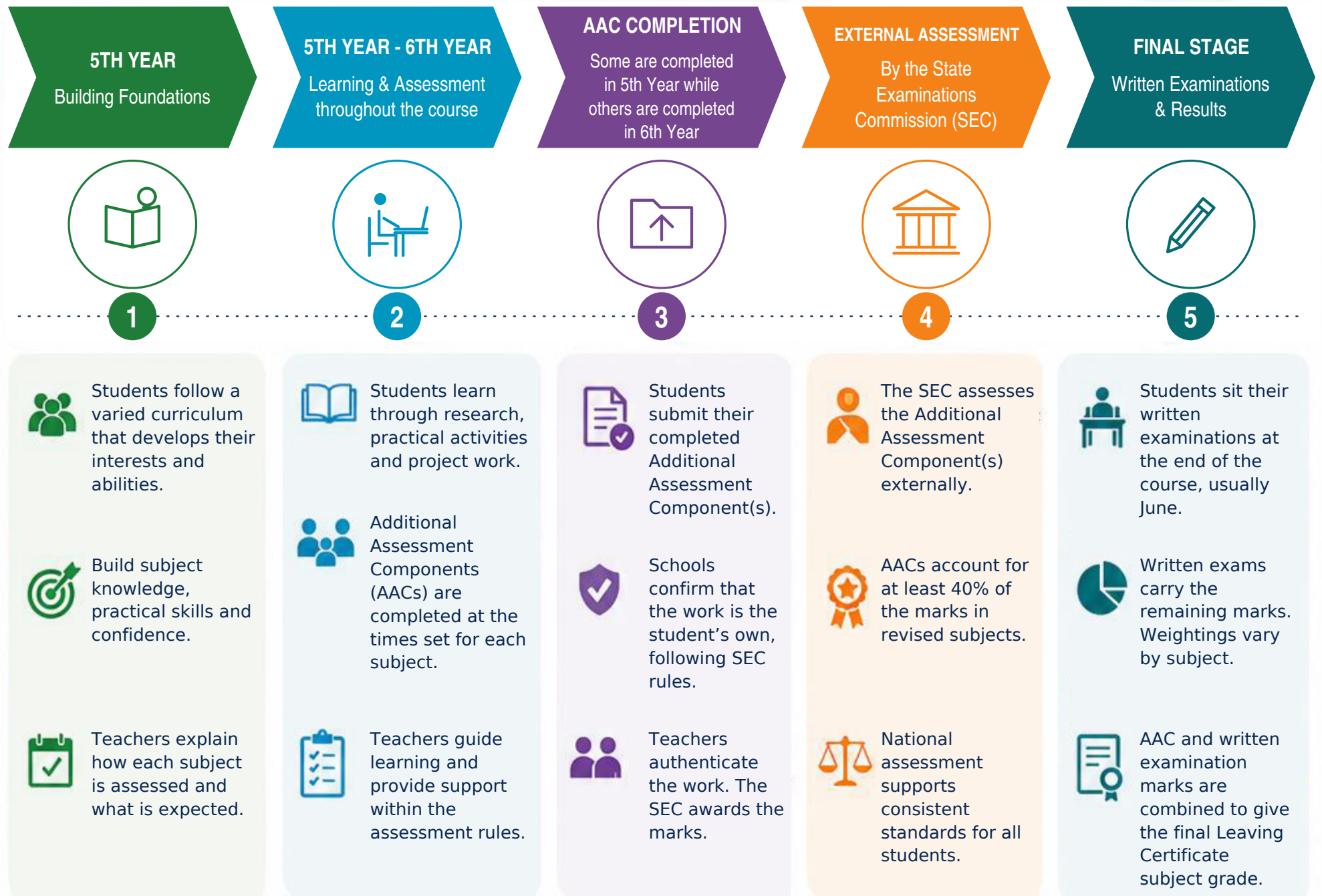
A Student's Journey

Senior Cycle offers more ways to show what you know and can do. Classroom learning, practical work and assessment throughout the course all contribute to your progress towards the Leaving Certificate.

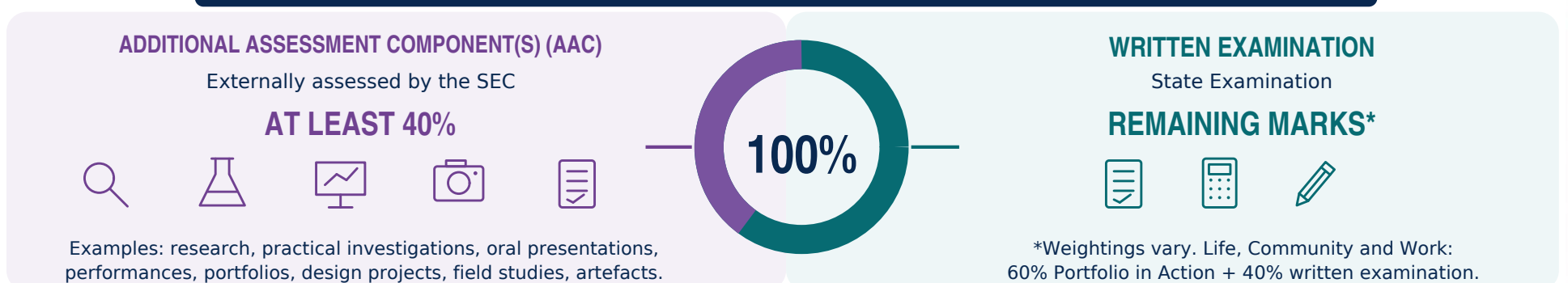


LEAVING CERTIFICATE

The same trusted qualification.
A new way to demonstrate learning.



TWO PARTS, ONE RESULT: YOUR LEAVING CERTIFICATE GRADE



KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER



WHAT ARE AACs?

- New forms of assessment in revised subjects.
- Allow students to show a wide range of skills and knowledge.
- Account for at least 40% of the marks.
- Completed during the course, not just at the end.



WHO ASSESSES?

- AACs are marked externally by the State Examinations Commission (SEC).
- Teachers support learning but do not award marks for certification.
- Ensures fairness and national consistency.



HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

- Encourage good organisation and regular attendance.
- Help your child meet deadlines and plan ahead.
- Provide a quiet space for study.
- Encourage independence - their work must be their own.



IMPORTANT DATES

- AAC timelines vary by subject and are planned across 5th and 6th Year.
- Written exams take place in the traditional exam period in June.
- Your school will provide subject-specific timelines.

STUDENT REMINDER: Attend regularly, meet deadlines, reference sources and submit your own work.

TRANCHE 1 • CURRENTLY LIVE
Sixth Years (Leaving Cert 2027)
Business • Biology • Chemistry

School year 2026-2027

TRANCHE 2 • STARTING SEPTEMBER 2026
Fifth Years (Leaving Cert 2028)
PE • Geography • Leaving Cert Life, Community and Work