

To: Each ASTI School Steward

Dear School Steward,

At its meeting on March 10th, Standing Committee decided to advise members to cooperate with the recent guidelines issued by the State Examinations Commission for the completion of the Junior Cycle English Assessment Task. The guidelines are in line with ASTI policy that teachers should not be involved in the assessment of their students for the Junior Cycle.

Prior to the issuing of the SEC guidelines, the Department of Education and Skills had stated that only students who had completed Classroom Based Assessments could undertake an Assessment Task in English. The guidelines remove that requirement, making it clear that it is not necessary for students to complete the second Classroom Based Assessment, including assessment by their teachers, in order for the Assessment Task to be undertaken. **Co-operation with the guidelines does not breach the ASTI Junior Cycle Framework Directive.** The guidelines are therefore a welcome development and constitute an important long-term gain in our ongoing Junior Cycle campaign.

It is important to emphasise that the Junior Cycle Framework Directive of September 2015 remains in place and the campaign to have our concerns addressed in full continues. ASTI members will continue their non-cooperation with Classroom Based Assessments. As previously advised, the Directive prohibits members from attending meetings associated with the Framework for Junior Cycle Proposals including cluster meetings on wellbeing which are currently being arranged at various locations throughout the country.

Assessment Task deadlines

The ASTI has written to the State Exams Commission expressing its concerns about the tight deadlines for the English Assessment Task. We have requested extensions to the deadlines for the completion of the *collection of texts* by

students, on which the Assessment Task is based, and the completion of the Assessment Task. We await a response.

ASTI members have engaged in a strong and principled campaign to date which has resulted in a number of achievements including a State certificate for Junior Cycle students and independently-assessed exams. The decoupling of the Assessment Task from the proposed Classroom Based Assessments is another important advancement. We will continue our campaign to ensure sound reform of the Junior Cycle.

We urge all members, and especially teachers of English, to visit the ASTI website in the coming days for relevant updates.

Best regards,



Kieran Christie
General Secretary

10th March, 2017.

Please circulate this notice to all members in your school.

