



JUMP  GRADE

Impact Report  
2024/2025



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## Levelling the Playing Field

How fair are State exams when some students can purchase an advantage in the form of grinds or private education? In Ireland, over 60% of Leaving Certificate students access private tuition with students from affluent backgrounds up to 14 times more likely to attend university.

“ Tutoring is one of the best-evidenced interventions for boosting educational performance. If it’s based on those who can afford it, it exacerbates the inequalities already in the system.— *The Times*, March 2025 ”

jumpAgrade believes educational support should be a right for all, not a privilege for few. That’s why we partner with schools and funders to deliver high-impact tuition and support at no cost to the student. **We've worked with over 230 schools and supported nearly 3,000 students, with 79% of our 2024 cohort progressing to higher education.**

# Message From The Team

## **Message from Joan Connolly, jumpAgrade CEO:**

*2024/2025 was a year of change—for me, for our team, our board, and for how we deliver support to students. Since stepping into the CEO role last May, I've had the opportunity to deepen my understanding of the many barriers that stand in the way of a level playing field in education. I've also been fortunate to learn from an incredibly supportive jumpAgrade community who continue to shape our work.*

*With a clear focus on improving the experience for students in the 2024/25 academic year, we restructured the programme, doubling the number of 1-to-1 contact hours, and introduced new supports designed to better meet the needs of the schools and students we work with. Thanks to a small but deeply committed team, our amazing ambassadors in schools across the country, and our funders without which none of this would be possible, we provided personalised tuition to 289 students in 54 schools—and piloted a new small group tuition model in partnership with ReThink Ireland.*

*Looking ahead, we are looking forward to introducing new programmes to make student support more universal and accessible, while broadening our supports to include guidance and college readiness. These developments are grounded in feedback from hundreds of students, parents and educators, with an overwhelming request for "more" – more sessions, more supports, more student places – and reflect our commitment to building responsive support systems that meet students where they are at. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey. We're just getting started.*

## **Message from Clodagh Guerin, jumpAgrade Programme Manager:**

*The strength, vibrancy and collaborative spirit of our community shone brighter than ever in 2024/2025. It has been my distinct honour to engage with 54 schools across Ireland, connecting with students, sharing stories, and collectively reimagining education in our ever evolving national landscape.*

*I stepped into this new role last August, and in doing so it has been crucial to me that I listen and amplify the voices of our beneficiaries: schools, students and parents/guardians across Ireland who deserve a say in how they are supported. Moving into 2025/2026, all jumpAgrade programmes will be co-designed with these key stakeholders to ensure we are effectively meeting their needs.*

*The jumpAgrade community's growth is driven by a commitment to ensuring every student has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential. Put very simply, we could not have achieved this year's impact, or delivered **over 2,300 hours of tuition**, without this network of support. Mar a deirtear- ní neart go chur le chéile!*

# New for 2024/2025

- New CEO and programme manager appointed.
- Revised programme structure, with new features including a student learning contract, parent engagement programme, evening operations support (to monitor attendance and contact parents if a student is late) and weekly feedback mechanisms to flag concerns.
- jumpAgrade was awarded funding from ReThink Ireland to pilot small group tuition in three post-primary schools: Coláiste Nano Nagle Limerick City, Coláiste Mhuire Askeaton and Gaelcholáiste Mhuire AG Cork. This pilot allowed us to support 26 additional students as they prepared for their Leaving Certificate exams.
- The jumpAgrade team hit the road to host focus groups in schools across Ireland gathering student and faculty feedback to design our 2025/2026 programmes.

# 2024/2025 Programme Highlights

- ★ 289 Students onboarded
- ★ 54 Schools across Ireland
- ★ 2,351 Classes attended
- ★ 93% Attendance rate
- ★ 3 Additional hours of tutor time with Oral Exam Workshops in French and Irish
- ★ 12 Additional hours of tutor time with Easter Revision Courses in Maths, Chemistry and Biology
- ★ Hundreds of hours of masterclass content across all subjects
- ★ Mindset, mindfulness and goal setting workshop provided to all students before Christmas break
- ★ Students rated their overall jumpAgrade experience 9/10
- ★ 90% of students report an improvement in their grades
- ★ 93% of students report an improvement in their confidence

# Student Stories

*"My teacher has been a great help for me this year and has helped me with my worst subject, maths. She's incredibly kind, understanding and unafraid to push me when I need it! I went from failing exams to passing all thanks to the work she's done."*

- Benjamin, 6<sup>th</sup> Year Student From Cork

*"My chemistry teacher was an absolute angel, I've gone from a H6 average to a H4/H3 average and I could not have done it without her!"*

- Aiden, 6<sup>th</sup> Year Student From Kildare

*"JumpAgrade was very helpful to me as I could not take French in school. JumpAgrade gave me the opportunity to take French with an excellent tutor."*

- Jennifer, 5<sup>th</sup> Year Student from Limerick

*"My biology teacher really went above and beyond to help me improve. He used software to improve the "quality of life" of the study session and sent me notes recapping the session after it finished. He also created a very natural environment that left room for a laugh and a joke which helped me further/fully engage with the sessions as oppose to other tutors I've had outside of jumpAgrade that were 'too strict/serious' which I'd usually mentally check out from... I can definitely say I have elevated my goals, in terms of Leaving Certificate points, I feel I can achieve more with jumpAgrade."*

- Wayne, 6<sup>th</sup> Year Student From Cork

*"I feel that now I can actually achieve more than my goals set at the start of the year."*

- Ellen, 6<sup>th</sup> Year Student From Kildare

# Student Stories

*"What you do genuinely works, so please continue to help as many students as possible."*

- Aidan, 6<sup>th</sup> Year Student From Cork

*"Thank you so much for being such a kind and supportive teacher. Chemistry is a hard subject, but you explain things in a way that makes it clear and interesting. You're always patient, encouraging, and never make me feel bad for asking questions. I've learned a lot from you and really enjoy our lessons."*

- Hina, 6<sup>th</sup> Year Student From Limerick

*"Your guidance and support have helped me navigate through challenges and obstacles with confidence. Thank you for always believing in me."*

- Sorina, 6<sup>th</sup> Year Student From Dublin

*"Thank you so much, you were quite literally the difference between me failing chemistry and maths and getting a H2/H3. I loved your energy and your genuine vested interest in understanding of the subject. Thank you!"*

- Aiden, 6<sup>th</sup> Year Student From Kildare

# Our 125 survey respondents noticed the following changes...



# Parent/Guardian Feedback

Our parents rated their child's overall experience  
9.3/10\*

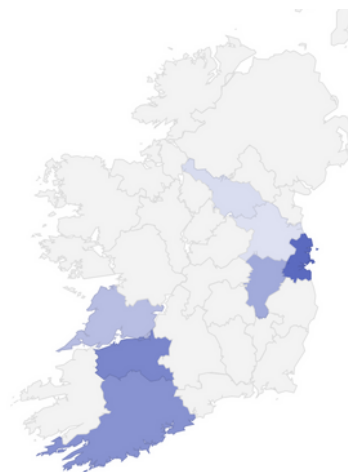
*"We really appreciate the help our son's tutor has given him to achieve the points he needs in his maths exam. He is well prepared and confident now... It also has been a big help financially to us as we want to see him do his best and achieve the points he needs for UCC. Thank you."*

*"A very positive experience for our child and much appreciated. She would not be able to do this subject without the assistance of jumpAgrade."*

*"I think your programme has done everything to make my child be able to open his questions without doubts that he may have had, and I see that he is more confident and feels positive for Leaving Cert exams. I want thank you for giving my son that opportunity as it has made a big difference for him...thank you!"*

# School Feedback

jumpAgrade is proud to have worked with 54 schools across Cork, Limerick, Clare, Kildare, Dublin, Cavan and Meath in 2024/2025.



*“Thank you to JumpAgrade for offering this invaluable service free of charge to our students. Your support is making a real difference by helping them reach their potential and access brighter futures.”*

*“Our student believes he will pass HL maths now and can clearly see himself in college.”*

*“A student who felt 3rd level was out of their grasp is now excited by their future in 3rd level. They will be the first member of their family to attend university.”*

# Focus Group and Student Feedback Findings 2025

This April, the team hit the road to meet with students and schools across Ireland. We gathered feedback, shared stories, and collected ideas for what the future looks like; not just at jumpAgrade, but at a national systems level.

## Key Focus Group Findings

### Student Findings

The key finding in all of our schools was that students unanimously expressed a desire for more support: more classes, access to more subjects, and more resources. Across the board, the students we interviewed expressed a preference for online support. Students quoted flexibility and time as their reasoning, but also the fact that they “spend enough time in school”!

Students all agreed that study skills and guidance are key areas of need before 6<sup>th</sup> year, which should be exam focused.

### School Findings

Every student learns differently, and tiered levels of blended support work best depending on student needs.

Schools emphasize the need for co-created, school-specific student selection processes and programmes.

Our schools expressed struggles to meet the growing mental health needs of students.

Schools unanimously agree that career links/work placement opportunities would be transformative for students.

## **We asked our students: *If you were the president of Ireland, what would you change about the education system?***

*"Your school work throughout the year contribute to final grade and entry point requirements for college courses to be reduced so everyone has an equal chance to go to college."*

- Heather, 6<sup>th</sup> Year Student From Clare

*"I would definitely make sure that every single school across the country has a mental health room for students to go in and just feel at ease. School is not easy especially with all the exam pressure on the student, and every single teacher that applies pressure on students, that why I would really make sure that sixth years and third years have a mental health teacher that is just there for them to go to when they feel like they need to talk to someone."*

- Gemima, 6<sup>th</sup> Year Student From Limerick

*"I would provide the students with as much resources as I possible can, by offering all students free grinds not only those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds and also having counsellors or therapists in schools should they need someone to talk to."*

- Samantha, 6<sup>th</sup> Year Student From Dublin

*"I would perhaps make the exams less predictable, more broad and more lenient when it comes to marking the exams, as I feel the current exams promote a culture of passing rather than a culture of learning, which—in my opinion—defeats the purpose of education. I should be discussing with my teachers how to best learn rather than what techniques I should learn or what methods I should use to pass the exams."*

- Darren, 6<sup>th</sup> Year Student From Cork

*"If I was the president of Ireland, I would put importance on life skills in the schools so that once the students graduate from secondary schools they aren't overwhelmed with the independence that comes with the real world and university. Students would then be more responsible and understand what they need to prioritise."*

- Danica, 6<sup>th</sup> Year Student From Dublin

# Appendices

## Meet the jumpAgrade Team



Joan Connolly became CEO of JumpAgrade in 2024, but she's been part of the journey for years as a mentor and board member. With 15 years' experience across education, innovation and social enterprise, she's all about breaking down barriers and making sure every student gets a fair shot. Joan's excited to lead jumpAgrade into its next chapter, helping level the playing field in education across Ireland.



Clodagh Ryan has been Director of Development at jumpAgrade since September 2021. She is passionate about jumpAgrade's mission and plays a key role in supporting partners and stakeholders to deliver meaningful impact for students. With a focus on growth and collaboration, Clodagh works to build lasting partnerships that support student success.



Clodagh Guerin has worked with jumpAgrade since 2019. Back then she started off in student support. Now, Clodagh is Programme Manager, and is responsible for the research, design, resourcing, and implementation of jumpAgrade's programmes. She manages the jumpAgrade teaching team, and can be found travelling around the country meeting our students and schools!

Marjana Lubovac has been with jumpAgrade since December 2019, playing a key role in operational support and reporting. She helps ensure that everything runs smoothly behind the scenes, from supporting day-to-day delivery to analysing data and preparing reports that demonstrate impact. With a focus on clarity and efficiency, Marjana supports the team with the insights they need to make informed decisions and share meaningful outcomes with external partners.

# Case Study: ReThink Ireland Small Group Tuition Pilot



ReThink Ireland partnered with jumpAgrade to pilot a 10 week small group tuition programme in three of our partner schools.

We ran 6 weekly classes in Leaving Certificate HL Maths, Chemistry and Biology. Students engaged in groups of 3-5 with their peers, completing an exam focused programme designed to give intensive support in the most crucial revision period of the year. Our expert teachers selected the core exam topics that make up significant chunks of the exams every year and are foundational for student success.



Coláiste Mhuire Askeaton, Co. Limerick



Coláiste Nano Nagle, Limerick City



Gaelcholáiste Mhuire AG, Cork City

***Very good teaching and efficient use of time for learning and exam questions. – Aaron, 6<sup>th</sup> Year Student***

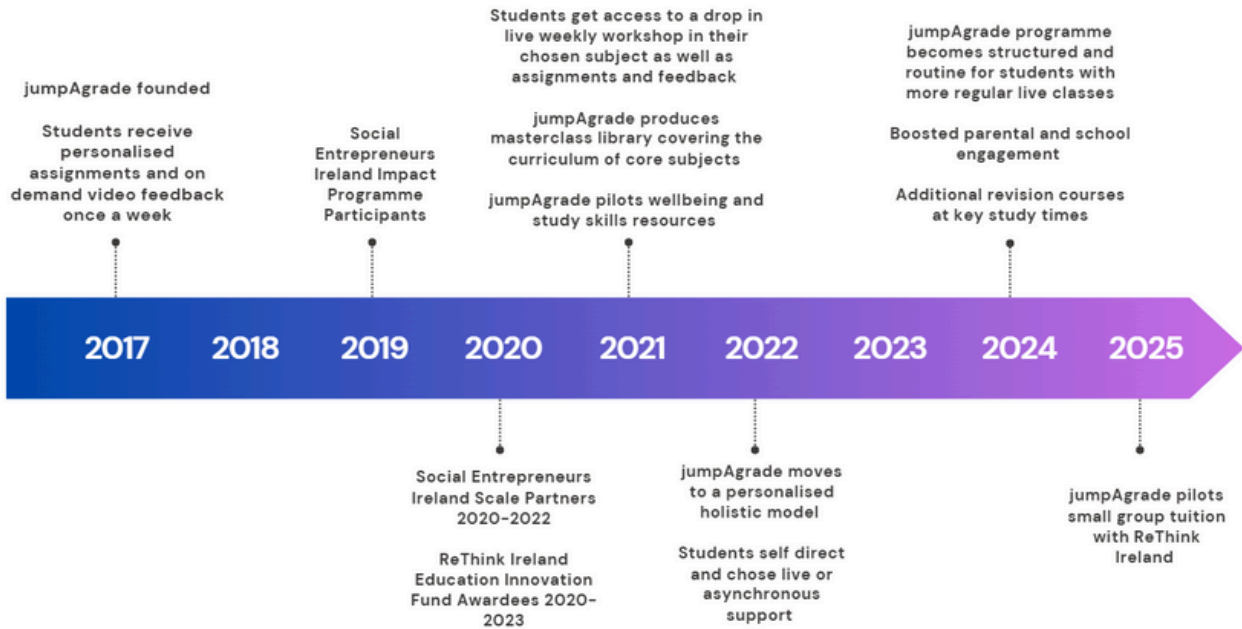
Students were asked to provide us with their mock exam grade at the beginning of the programme to ascertain their baseline. Throughout the programme, students completed formative assessment on each topic to inform instruction, but also to assess student progress and how our pilot programme addressed gaps in knowledge.

**Through analysing these assessments, we observe that students went up an average of 2 grades (eg: H3 to H1).**

# Programme Schedule 2025/2026

Timeline	Activity
<b>September Weeks 1-3</b>	Outreach & School Nominations
<b>September Week 4</b>	Student registration (students receive scholarship credits) Learning Contracts signed by student and parent/guardian
<b>October Week 1</b>	National Online Onboarding Event Learning Needs Analysis and Tutor Matching
<b>October - May</b>	Tuition and Weekly Check-Ins Universal Accelerator and Guidance Clinics (if selected)
<b>June - August</b>	Final Progress Reports and Evaluation
<b>September 2026</b>	Graduation and Awards Ceremony

# Evolution of jumpAgrade



# Thank You 24/25 Sponsors, Supporters and Schools

A huge thank you to all of our sponsors and supporters who helped us to achieve this impact in 24/25.



# **We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to our network of volunteer school ambassadors; we couldn't do what we do without people like you!**

Ardcoil Mhuire Corbally, Limerick  
Ardcoil Rath Iomgháin, Kildare  
Athy Community College, Kilsare  
Bishopstown Community School, Cork  
Breifne College, Cavan  
Carrignafof Community College, Cork  
CBS Sexton Street, Limerick  
Clogher Road Community College, Dublin  
Coláiste an Chraoibhín, Cork  
Coláiste Chiaráin Croom, Limerick  
Colaiste Daibhead, Cork  
Coláiste Éamann Rís, Cork  
Coláiste Fionnchua, Cork  
Coláiste Iosaef Kilmallock, Limerick  
Coláiste Mhuire Buttevant, Cork  
Colaiste Mhuire Askeaton, Limerick  
Coláiste Nano Nagle, Limerick  
Cork Migrant Centre  
Curragh Post-Primary School, Kildare  
Davis College, Cork  
Ennistymon Vocational School, Clare  
Gaelcholáiste Mhuire AG, Cork  
Kildare Town Community School  
Kilkee Community College, Clare  
Kilrush Community School, Clare  
Marino College, Dublin  
Mayfield Community School, Cork  
McEgan College, Cork  
Mount Carmel, Dublin  
Nano Nagle School, Cork  
North Monastery Coeducational, Cork  
Our Lady of Mercy Secondary School, Dublin  
Piper's Hill College, Kildare  
Presentation Ballyphehane, Cork  
Rath Dara Community College, Dublin  
Rosmini Community School, Dublin  
St Bricin's College, Cavan  
St Brogan's College, Cork  
St Caiman's College, Clare  
St Clement's College, Limerick  
St Conleth's Community College, Kildare  
St Farnan's Prosperous Post Primary, Kildare  
St Joseph's Fairview, Dublin  
St Marks Community School, Dublin  
St Mogue's College, Cavab  
St Oliver's Post Primary, Meath  
St Paul's Secondary School Monasterevin, Kildare  
St. Aidan's Community College, Cork  
St. Colman's Community College, Cork  
St. Patrick's College, Cork  
St. Vincent's Secondary School, Cork  
Thomond Community College Limerick  
Ukrainian Hub, Cavan  
Ursuline Secondary School, Cork

# Contact

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