



Dear Parents/Guardians/Students,

The Minister for Education and Skills Joe McHugh TD has today (Wednesday 29 April 2020) announced revised arrangements for this year's Junior Cycle Examinations.

Under the revised arrangements and in light of the exceptional circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the work and achievement of third year Junior Cycle students will be recognised with a state certificate from the Department of Education and Skills.

As soon as possible after the end of the current school year, students will receive a written school report on their learning achievements in each subject, short course and/or priority learning unit

“In this difficult time for students I have listened to the very strongly-held and well-articulated views of students, parents and other stakeholders,” Minister McHugh said.

“This decision has been made with the health and wellbeing of students, parents and teachers at the forefront of our thinking.

“It gives students and their families more clarity and certainty. It also gives schools freedom to decide how best to assess the progress of students following three years of hard work and learning.”

The Minister explained that the certification will involve two elements:

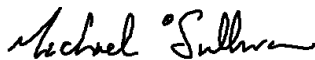
- **A State Certificate of completion of Junior Cycle from the Department of Education and Skills.** Students should receive a State Certification that they have completed three years of Junior Cycle education in a number of subjects/priority learning units. This certification will be provided by the Department of Education and Skills.

- **A School Report setting out the learning achievements of students in Junior Cycle.** Students should receive a written report on the broad range of learning that they have achieved in each subject, at the end of Junior Cycle.

It is our expressed desire that, by implementing assessments for our 3rd year Junior Cycle students before Friday, May 29th 2020, both parents and students will get a broader picture of a student's progress and achievement in our school over the course of their junior cycle. Most importantly, the focus on teacher-student feedback and professional collaboration between teachers will enrich both the quality of students' learning and teachers' assessment of that learning.

As this has only been announced by the Minister for Education this afternoon we will be working with staff to formulate a plan around the School Report. As soon as we have decisions on this we will outline clearly to you what is going to happen next regarding assessment and reporting. In simple terms, whatever form of assessment and reporting we determine to be appropriate it must be concluded by May 29th. No assessment will be carried over into the 2020/21 academic year. In the mean time you teachers will continue to keep you informed.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'M'.