



18/2/2021

Dear Parents /Guardians/Students

I hope you all are well

As I am sure you are aware the Minister has issued a [statement](#) setting out the broad parameters of arrangements for this year's Leaving Certificate examination.

The Junior Cycle examinations will not be run in 2021. Schools will be provided with guidance on continuing to engage this year group in online learning and assessment during the period of school closure and through in-person learning when schools re-open.

There are many issues to be still ironed out and the devil is always in the detail. We will inform you as we have information

The main elements for the Leaving Cert are as follows:

1. Written Leaving Certificate examinations will be put in place, which will –
 - Operate in accordance with the normal timetables: [LCE](#)
 - Be conducted subject to public health advice and providing, as far as possible, access to the examinations for very high-risk students, and,
 - Be supported by clear information and guidance to students and schools
2. Additional assessment components, such as orals, practical performance tests and coursework will be put in place, subject to public health advice, with components in certain subjects not operating for public health reasons. Schools will locally source teachers to administer some of the tests, but not assessing their own students. Assessment will be arranged by the State Examinations Commission (SEC).
3. An Accredited Grades system, to be operated by the SEC, will be available whereby Leaving Certificate candidates can opt to have grades in some or all of their subjects

(to be known as “SEC Accredited Grades”) issued to them at the same time as the examination results.

4. The elements of the SEC Accredited Grades system will include the following:
 - The professional judgement of each of the candidate’s teachers which will not be subject to appeal
 - A form of in-school alignment to ensure fairness amongst candidates at school level
 - Approval by the school principal of the estimated subject scores
 - A process of standardisation at national level to ensure as much fairness as possible amongst this year’s candidates
 - The SEC Accredited Grade and examinations outcomes will have regard to the pattern of results in 2020 and previously, with more details of the process to be determined by the Minister having regard to advice from the SEC
 - A right for students to appeal in respect of their Accredited Grade which will comprise a process review focused on examining possible errors in the transmission and processing of student data, and,
 - Provision as far as practicable for out-of-school learners or students studying one or more subjects outside school to apply to receive Accredited Grades through the devising of an appropriate and practicable process
5. This year’s Junior Cycle Examinations have been cancelled.
6. Necessary legislation will be brought forward, the purpose of which will be to confer on the State Examinations Commission power to operate a system of Accredited Grades.
7. The following indicative dates have been provided by the Department of Education:
 - May 14th – Closing date for collection of evidence of learning from 6th year student for the purpose of establishing an estimated mark.
 - May 28th – Schools will close for all students to allow the final week for completion of alignment process and data entry related to SEC Accredited Grades by schools.
 - June 4th – Closing date for schools to enter/return all data from the school to the SEC relating to SEC Accredited Grades.
 - June 9th – Written Leaving Certificate examinations to commence in schools.

8. The SEC will issue revised dates for submission of Leaving Certificate course work and the scheduling/arrangements
9. It is intended to prepare and publish, in consultation with stakeholders, accessible and detailed guidance for parents, students, teachers and schools, to be issued as soon as possible.

We will inform you on the implementation of these provisions as soon as the Department/SEC provides detailed guidance on the various elements of these arrangements.

For the moment online learning resumes on Monday morning and hopefully the phased return to school will start soon.

I am happy to inform you that we have received final approval for additional accommodation we had applied for earlier this year.

The Project approval is for

Additional Accommodation of:

6 General Classrooms,

2 Science Labs/ Prep area,

1 Art room,

2 Construction studies/Woodwork room/Prep area,

1 Technology room

and 3 Classroom SEN base

This will be a big addition to the school going forward

Please take care of yourselves and stay safe.

Kind regards

Michael O' Sullivan

