



26/2/2021

Dear Parents /Guardians/Students

We are delighted to be welcoming 6th year back to school this Monday the 1st of March. We are very much looking forward to seeing you all.

However the interim period of the next two weeks is going to be a demanding and challenging time for you our students. It is critical that we all play our part in the safe return to school so as to ensure that the school can remain open.

We have had to introduce some new revised guidelines for this interim period. These are not designed to make life difficult but to ensure that the school remains a safe place for everyone coming to school and also in order to enable the rest of the student body to return on a phased basis.

These guidelines are based on HSE advice. Remember we are doing this in order to keep everyone safe, to keep the school open and to allow the rest of the students to return at a future date.

- Everyone must wear a face masks when indoors at all times.
- Due to this and to comply with Health & Safety, **all food must be consumed in the out-door areas of the school grounds such as the Quad.**
- At break and lunch times only **two students** are allowed on **external benches** at all times, sitting at opposite ends.
- The pods have been re-arranged for the interim. There will be five pods; three canteen rooms and the two areas of the studyhall. Details of the pods will be explained on Monday.
- Students are not to travel in the same car at any time.
- The time-table is to be strictly followed; this is to ensure the Health & Safety for all.
- The playing of any games/sport activities is not allowed during break or lunch times.
- The one-way system is to be followed at all times.
- The canteen will not be open, please ensure that you bring what you need for break and lunch.

- Social distancing and hand hygiene guidelines must be adhered to at all times both inside and outside the building.

We expect everyone to follow these revised guidelines for everyone's safety. Any blatant disregarding of these revised guidelines cannot be tolerated.

Please note that the return to school form is available on the school APP and must be filled out prior to the return to school. **Link [here](#) if no app.**

We thank you all in advance for following these guidelines. By working together in the spirit of our school value of *Unitas*, we will get through this and by doing so will make the return to school safe for all. Below are link to all DES information on return to school.

[gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - Reopening our post primary schools (www.gov.ie)

[gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - Back to school advice for parents, students and families (www.gov.ie)

Mocks/Pres

The Pres in their standard format cannot take place and must not be used in the estimated Grades process. However, for students who may wish to have the opportunity of a practice exam we are currently exploring options to facilitate this. Please note – Any such option will have to be run after school so as not to impact on teaching time.

The DES yesterday evening issued the guidelines on accredited-grades for Leaving Cert. I have attached the link to that document below. Please take time over the weekend to digest.

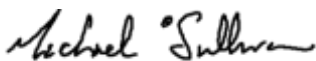
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/81e76-a-guide-to-state-examinations-and-accredited-grades-for-leaving-certificate-2021/>

We have put together a brief summary of the main points below.

We look forward to welcoming you back to school.

Kind regards

Michael O' Sullivan



Summary. Accredited Grades

Leaving Certificate Results will be awarded on the basis of the better of either

1. Students' performance in Leaving Certificate examinations in any subject taken by them, including, where appropriate, their performance in the completion of additional components (coursework, orals, etc.)

or

2. SEC Accredited Grades awarded to students in each subject based on schools' estimates of students' likely performance in the 2021 examination¹ and a national standardisation process.

Leaving Certificate Written Exam

- The number of questions that this year's Leaving Certificate students are expected to answer in their June examination papers is to be reduced.

Course Work

- Coursework will be completed by students and submitted to the SEC for marking or to be marked by the SEC examiners in schools. Details will be available shortly.

Oral Examinations

- Oral examinations in Irish and modern foreign languages will take place in schools during the period from 26 March to 15 April.
- The oral examination will be recorded electronically and the recording will be sent to the SEC (State Examinations Commission) for marking.

Practical Examinations

- Due to Covid-related restrictions it will not be possible to hold practical skills tests in *Construction Studies*.

- In these subjects, the proportion of marks normally allocated to these components will be reallocated to the project component.
- In the case of *Music*, the department has told schools that planning is being advanced for revised arrangements in respect of the practical performance component of the examination which it is hoped can take place in the Easter period.

Accredited Grades

- Schools have been advised that accredited grades will be arrived at like last year through a combination of teacher professional judgement and national standardisation.

Key Dates

KEY DATES	EXAM COMPONENT	
8 th March 2021	Student Portal Opens	Decision of Students
29 th March 2021	Oral Exams	School Administered
14 th May 2021	Collection of Evidence – Accredited Grades	Coursework Completed
28 th May 2021	School Term Ends for Students	One Week Early
4 th June 2021	Accredited Grades Process Completed	Accredited Grades Submitted by Schools
9 th June 2021	Leaving Certificate Written Exams Commence	Normal LC Timetable 9 th June – 29 th June 2021
Mid-August 2021	Leaving Certificate Exam Results Issued	Normal Timetable for CAO offers etc