



Dear Students, Parents and Guardian

I hope that you enjoyed your first week back as much as we enjoyed welcoming you back. There is no doubt that it is an adjustment for students and staff, but a nice way to ease back before the return of all students to the campus.

As more information becomes available from the DES about LC2021 we wanted to keep you all updated and to dispel the many rumours that are bound to be floating around.

We recommend for each subject, that students opt to take both the Written Exam and the Accredited Grades. The teacher's Estimated Marks, which form the Accredited Grades, may be subject to standardisation by the SEC.

The mocks timetable (attached here) was sent to all students this week and sign up for the exams is to be submitted by tomorrow, Saturday 6th. Aoife Quinn, who coordinated the LC2021 exam centre here in the school, has also agreed to coordinate much of the admin for LC2020 and will be emailing you from the leavingcert2021@thekingshospital.ie address. This is where you should send any queries about the Accredited Grades process or in-school exams, and it will be passed on to the relevant staff member for you.

A reminder that the mock exams are **optional** and the exam can be taken outside the scheduled times without supervision and still corrected, but only after the exams have taken place. The results will **not** be used by teachers, when collating marks for the Accredited Grades process.

Updates received from the DES last night:

1. Coursework Completion Dates

- Practical course work hard copies retained in the school to now include the following subjects:
 - Economics, Agricultural Science and Politics & Society
 - Coursework completion dates attached

2. Orals, Practical Skills Tests and Music

- **Orals:** to take place over Easter Break; the following have been confirmed:
 - Modern languages – Monday 29 & Tuesday 30 March
 - Irish – Thursday 1 April
 - Russian – TBC
 - Italian – TBC
- **Music Performance Test:**
 - To take place second week of Easter break conducted by examiners appointed by SEC.

If you do **not** sit an oral exam in Irish or your 2nd language, or take your musical practical, at Easter, you can still sit the exam in June, but will **lose out** on those marks in the final exam grade.

3. LC Exam Timetable 2021

- Attached with this email.



4. Candidate Entries 2021 and Candidate Self Service Portal

- **Portal Opens 10 March at 12 noon – queries to entries@examinations.ie or phone 0906442702**
 - The CSSP will open on Wednesday 10 March at 12 noon until 6 pm on Tuesday 16 March.
 - You need your PPSN number to register.
 - You must enter all your subjects and levels for both Accredited Grades and June Exams
 - If you do not register to sit exams on the portal in this one-week window you **cannot sit** them in June.
 - You must include the subjects, if any, you are studying outside of school.
 - When the portal reopens in April, you can change your level but you **cannot add** a subject, so put them all in when you register.

5. Race Scheme – closing date for late applications 9 April

SEC ACCREDITED GRADE PROCESS

In recommending that students also choose Accredited Grades for every subject, in addition to Written Exams, the thought process is based on:

- If the student is unable to take the written exam for public or personal health reasons
- There will be no provision for bereavement exam.
- It gives students a dual opportunity to achieve the best grade.
- Any candidate unable to take the exam will automatically receive an Accredited Grade.

Students need to be aware that the Accredited Grade process is not designed to give a inflated account of students' abilities or achievements. There are many factors that make up the final Accredited Grade awarded by the SEC. The teachers' Estimated Mark will include timed and supervised assessments submitted up to the 14th of May, and the students are expected to work towards the grade that they would hope to achieve in the written exam.

Students may continue to discuss with their teachers, what level they wish to take their Written Exam or Accredited Grade at, but under no circumstances should students approach teachers to discuss their Estimated Mark. The document from the DES clearly states that students will not be informed by teachers or the school of their estimated mark.

This is understandably an anxious time, with a lot of different information to process, but there are many staff members here to help and provide advice. For LC2021 and College Guidance questions please email LeavingCert2021@thekingshospital.ie, your houseperson or [Clair Breen](#), school counsellor, to access the well-being pathway.

Kind regards

Siobhán Daly

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