



20-03-2020

Dear Student, Parent and Guardian

The following is an update on this year's Junior and Leaving Cert examinations, as outlined by the Minister of Education yesterday, and will be implemented by the SEC (State Exam Commission).

Cancellation of Oral & Practical Examinations

The change to the 2020 state examinations means all students who were due to take oral and practical performance tests in the following subjects will be given full marks for this component of the examination:

Leaving Certificate

- Oral tests in Leaving Certificate Irish and the Modern Languages of French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian and Japanese.
- Practical performance tests in Leaving Certificate Music.

Junior Certificate

- Practical performance tests in Junior Certificate Music and Home Economics.

A separate oral examination is no longer a component of Junior Cycle Irish or Modern Languages and has been replaced by CBAs.

Project and Coursework

Students were originally scheduled to complete these elements of the state examinations on a number of dates from Friday 20th March to Friday 24th April 2020, depending on the subject. Students will now be given until Friday 15th May 2020 to complete this work.

Leaving Certificate

- Religious Studies – booklet was posted today
- Geography – booklet was posted today
- History – booklet was posted today
- Politics & Society – available online
- Agricultural Science – in a folder with students at home

Subject teachers will be in contact directly regarding the completion of booklets.

Junior Cert

- Religious Studies

Students have already prepared their Religious Studies content so if school resumes before the end of the school year, they can fill in their booklet quickly at school.

Visual Art and Technology Projects

We have requested clarification from the Department around the LC, JC Art and JC Technology projects. As all materials are retained in school it will be impossible for students to complete by 15th May, if schools do not reopen on 29th March.



Subject Levels

- **Leaving Cert** students filled out an E8A form in February, indicating what level they wished to sit their exams at, which was then submitted to the SEC. LC students are permitted to change downwards from Higher to Ordinary level on the day of the exam, but not the reverse.
- **Junior Cert** students also filled out an E8A form, which was submitted on 10th March to the SEC. JC students are **not** permitted to change levels upwards or downwards on the day of the exam.

You can read the full statement from the Minister of Education [here](#).

I want to acknowledge that many students are finding the uncertainty around the exams quite unsettling. There will be some that feel yesterday's announcement negates the hard work they have put in so far for their orals. I would like to reassure you that staff are taking proactive actions to support our exam year students and will continue to provide guidance around changes to the examination schedule.

I would encourage you to check in with your son or daughter and discuss this email and the work that they are receiving from staff. Some may feel overwhelmed with deadlines as they have to create their own structure for learning in a new environment, others may not realise the importance of keeping up with assignments. We have to work together to find the right balance.

Please do contact [Siobhan Daly](#), by email, if you have any questions, so she can coordinate the appropriate responses.

I wish all the best for you and your family during these challenging times.

Yours

Mark Ronan
Headmaster / Principal