



8-5-20

Dear Students

The past few weeks have been very disconcerting for you with many mixed messages around the Leaving Cert Exams appearing in the mainstream and social media. We have a decision and [press release](#) from the Minister for Education today regarding the format the Leaving Certificate will now take. The highlights of which are listed below:

**‘All students to be offered the option of accepting Calculated Grades or sitting Leaving Certificate written examinations at a later date.’**

### **The Calculated Grades Process**

- There will be four layers to the calculated grades system mandated by the [Department of Education and Skills](#).
- A special unit is being established within the Department of Education and Skills to process the data provided by each school and operate national standardisation, again to ensure fairness amongst all students.
- The Department will finalise the grades for each student, which will be issued to each student as close as possible to the traditional date. Formal State certification will also be provided and the CAO process will continue as normal.
- Students will retain the right to appeal. This will involve checks on school-entered data; correct transfer of that data to the Department; a review that it was correctly received and processed by the Department; and a verification of the Department's processes by independent appeal scrutineers.

You will understandably have many questions that we will be happy to answer once we have had an opportunity to process the implications of the decision. I have instructed staff, in line with government recommendations, not to answer questions directly, and I instead encourage you to email [LC2020@thekingshospital.ie](mailto:LC2020@thekingshospital.ie) so we can collate your questions.

We want to reassure you that that no matter what emotions you are feeling right now or in the coming days or weeks, we are here to support and guide you through this. Here are the ways we plan to support you:

#### **1. Well-Being**

- You are welcome to remain in contact with your house-person for pastoral care.
- Our Well-being Team is also on call from today and happy to offer emotional guidance and support on the phone, by text or email. This includes over the weekend.
- You can continue to email members of the team as listed in the [Well-Being Procedural Pathway](#), or
- To schedule a call back from a member of the team, text;
  - School Counsellor Clair Breen on 087 9267507 or
  - A member of the Nursing Team on 086 3277781

#### **2. School Timetable beginning week of 11<sup>th</sup> May**

- After today, all taught inputs and assignments are suspended.
- House Assemblies will take place by video call on Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup> at 12pm.
- A Year Assembly will take place by video call on Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup> at 12pm.



## Headmaster email to Form 6 – Leaving Cert Update

- Virtual Valedictory takes place on Friday May 15<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7pm.

### **3. Career Guidance**

- Our Career Guidance Team will provide a framework of Guidance and Support for all students, assessing the impact of the government's decision as it relates to third level entrance at home and abroad.
- The Team will then be in contact to arrange guidance and support individually to students.

There will be a lot of media discussion following this announcement so I urge you to stay connected to our support teams and each other. We are fully committed to you, the Class of MMXX, and will support each and every one of you as best we can.

This is not the end of your KH journey, this is the beginning of the next chapter of your life as an alumni. In addition to the Virtual Valedictory, we look forward to organising a true celebration of your time with us as soon as restrictions are lifted after the summer.

Yours,