

## Re: Leaving Certificate 2021

19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents /guardians,

Following the recent announcement by Minister Norma Foley we now have a roadmap for the Leaving Cert. examinations. As you will be aware, there is still a lot of detail to be filled in and hopefully that information will issue as soon as possible. The minister's [statement](#) sets out the general outline of the process. The following is a short video summary: <https://youtu.be/Esbnp9yGQI> The main points 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
- Students will have the choice whether to sit the written examinations or not. We do not yet know when this choice is to be made or through what mechanism.

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. Assessment will be arranged by the State Examinations Commission (SEC).

Students will have the choice whether to engage with oral and coursework components. We understand that the oral and coursework components will not form part of the Accredited Grades Process.

The SEC will issue revised dates for submission of Leaving Certificate course work and will provide extra time to complete work. We await further information on dates for the oral exams.

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. Details of the format and process of the accredited grade system have yet to issue.

4. The following indicative **dates** have been provided by the Department of Education:

Dates to be announced	LCA Modules and Practicals/Projects/Coursework
14 <sup>th</sup> . May	Student work can be considered up until this point
14-28 <sup>th</sup> . May	Individual teachers can prepare materials for the alignment process
28 <sup>th</sup> . May	Schools will close for all students to allow the alignment process begin
1 <sup>st</sup> . week of June	Alignment process begins in schools
4 <sup>th</sup> . June	Submission of Accredited Grades data by the school to SEC
9 <sup>th</sup> . June	SEC written LC begins (for those who wish to sit it)

**Next steps:**

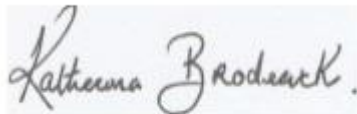
5. We will return to school on-line on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.** Class will begin as usual at 9:00a.m and classes will run according to timetables. I will hold an assembly with 6<sup>th</sup> year students to listen to student concerns and discuss the new arrangements. Date and time will be notified on Teams.

6. We will return physically to school on **March 1<sup>st</sup>.** You will have to fill a return to school form on the school app which will issue to you towards the end of next week. You must fill this form before returning to school.

7. We anticipate that focus for the Leaving certificate students, (whether sitting the examinations or not), in the coming days will be on oral and practical components of subjects where this is relevant.

Finally, accessible, and detailed guidance for parents and students will be published in the coming days. I will continue to keep you informed as this information becomes available.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Katherine Brodeur.", written in dark ink on a light blue background.

Principal