



**OUR
LADY'S
SCHOOL**
TERENURE



21st February 2021

Dear 6th Year Students and Parents/Guardians,

We all look forward to welcoming our 6th Years back to online learning tomorrow at 8.30am. I hope that our 6th Years had a good rest and break over the mid term.

I would like to clarify for both students and parents the information that we have been given to date about the Leaving Cert 2021.

Summary of the Latest Leaving Cert Information

In a press release, issued on Wednesday, 17th February, the Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD confirmed that Leaving Certificate 2021 will go ahead. You can read the full text of the Press Release in the link below:

<https://www.education.ie/en/Press-Events/Press-Releases/2021-press-releases/PR21-02-17.html>

Outline of Arrangements for 2021 Leaving Certificate

1. Written Leaving Certificate examinations will be held as outlined in the timetable published by the State Examinations Commission. A copy of the can be seen at <https://www.examinations.ie/misc-doc/EN-EX-46337197.pdf>

2. Every student will be offered and can decide to avail of **either or both of the following:**

(a) Sitting and receiving grades in the Leaving Certificate exams including where applicable, your performance in the completion of additional assessment components (coursework, orals etc) associated with particular subjects. For those choosing to take the Leaving Cert Exams, oral examinations will be held during the Easter holidays or shortly after. Coursework will proceed in subjects where these form a normal part of the examination. In some subjects the holding of practical examinations will not be possible given public health considerations and this will be advised as soon as possible. Details of revised schedules will be issued to schools in the coming weeks.

OR / AND

(b) Receiving a **State Examinations Commission Accredited Grade in each subject**, based on the school's estimate of the student's likely performance in the conventional exams.

3. This 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.**

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The highest of the combined Leaving Certificate examination grades and or the SEC Accredited Grade will be finally awarded to the student.

4. The elements of the SEC Accredited Grades system will include the following (please note that these grades will not include grades for coursework/ project work, aural and orals)

- The professional judgement of each of the candidate's teachers which will not be subject to appeal
- A form of in-school alignment to ensure fairness amongst candidates at school level
- Approval by the school Principal of the estimated subject scores
- A process of standardisation at national level to ensure as much fairness as possible amongst this year's candidates
- A right for students to appeal in respect of their Accredited Grade which will comprise a process review focused on examining possible errors in the transmission and processing of student data, and
- Provision as far as practicable for out-of-school learners or students studying one or more subjects outside school to apply to receive Accredited Grades through the devising of an appropriate and practicable process

Indicative Dates.

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

- **May 14th** – Closing date for collection of evidence of learning from 6th Year students for the purpose of establishing an estimated mark.
- **May 28th** – Schools will close for all students to allow the final week for completion of the alignment process and data entry related to SEC Accredited Grades by schools.
- **June 4th** – Closing date for schools to enter/return all data from the school to the SEC relating to SEC Accredited Grades.
- **June 9th** – Written Leaving Certificate examinations to commence in schools.
- **The SEC will issue revised dates for submission of Leaving Certificate course work**
- Updates regarding the Leaving Certificate 2021 including an information video can be accessed through the following link [Leaving Certificate 2021](#)

[17 February, 2021 - Minister Foley confirms Leaving Certificate 2021 written, coursework, oral and practical performance examinations will be held and a corresponding process of grades accredited by State Examinations Commission will be available to students - Department of Education and Skills](#)

While this announcement is welcome and will give some relief and clarity to students, **a number of details still remain to be worked out and communicated to us.**

Next Steps and Advice to 6th Years

As soon as any updates are made available from the Department, we will let you know as soon as possible. We will then organise an assembly to brief you on any additional information that will assist you to prepare for your Leaving Cert 2021.

In the meantime my clear advice to each and every student is to keep all your options open, prepare to sit all your Leaving Certificate exams and also to opt for SEC Accredited grades. This will allow you 2 options (2 grades per subject) from which the highest grade will be awarded to you.

We will of course facilitate the needs of each individual student and as more information becomes available we will engage with every student to assist them with this new process.

You need to continue to attend your online classes until we are given a date for the return to school for 6th Years. Follow your daily timetable, continue to prepare as normal for the mock exams, be

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guided by your subject teacher and pace your learning and study.

It is important to remember that you are fully supported in OLS in all that you do and that there is lots of assistance available whenever it is needed.

Looking forward to you rejoining the OLS community on Monday.

Yours sincerely



Marguerite Gorby
Principal