

LEAVING CERTIFICATE 2021



Return to School

- ❑ 1st March – return date for 6th Year students.
- ❑ All students are expected to return (unless medically diagnosed as at very high risk)

- ❑ Regardless of if a student opts for an accredited grade or the traditional Leaving certificate, attendance is vital and required.

'Traditional Leaving Certificate' and 'Accredited Grades'

- ❑ 'Traditional Leaving Certificate' and 'Accredited Grades' are separate and parallel processes
- ❑ An estimated mark will be generated for every candidate in the country
- ❑ This estimated mark will be used as a back-up if a candidate does not sit the written examination
- ❑ No 'Bereavement Examinations' or other examinations in 2021
- ❑ If a student sits the written exams and opts for an Accredited Grade, he will get the best mark of the two
- ❑ **Advice is that a student should opt for both because they will 'get the best of both worlds'**
- ❑ This year the process is organised by the SEC

Traditional Leaving Certificate – ‘Written Examinations’

- ❑ Written Examinations will commence on 9th June (subject to Public Health advice)
- ❑ Students who sit the examinations will need to engage with orals and coursework
- ❑ If a student does not do the orals/coursework, and sits the written examinations but he will forfeit the marks for the orals or practical component(s)

Accredited Grades

- All candidates will be assigned an estimated mark
- Estimated mark will be provided by the subject teacher
- No Ranking** but teachers are expected to give a differentiated mark between students
- The 'comprehension' of coursework can be used to determine an estimated mark in the broad sense. Students who opt for accredited grades will need to engage with oral work and coursework
- A process of Subject Alignment will happen in school
- Oversight by school senior management team (Principal and Deputy Principal)
- Submission of data to the SEC
- SEC standardisation
- Estimated Mark becomes an Accredited Grade when the SEC perform an alignment process

Estimation of Mark

- Based on the professional judgement of the teacher
- Evidence over two years – Transition Year data is not allowed
- Use of Formative and Summative assessments
- Limited additional testing outside of what you might ordinarily do**
- Mocks data must not be used**

- SEC will align estimated marks using national/Junior Cycle data
- Assign Accredited Grade
- Canvassing throughout prohibited**
- Results will issue as close to traditional date as possible
- Candidate will see best of Leaving Certificate / Accredited Grade per subject listed
- Later, candidate will see breakdown of grades determined under each process available
- Two distinct appeal processes

Next

- SEC Student Portal to open – no date set yet, Orals, entries, Levels, opt in for accredited grades, opt for Exam sits
- Issued last Thursday . . . ***A Guide to State Examinations and SEC Accredited Grades***
- To issue soon . . . ***Subject-by-subject guide on all subjects with practical/coursework components***

Indicative Timeframe

KEY DATES	EXAM COMPONENT	
8 th March 2021	STUDENT PORTAL OPENS?	Decision of Students
29 th March 2021	ORAL EXAMS	School Administered
14 th May 2021	COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE – ACCREDITED GRADES	Coursework Completed
28 th May 2021	SCHOOL TERM ENDS FOR STUDENTS	One Week Early
4 th June 2021	ACCREDITED GRADES PROCESS COMPLETED	Accredited Grades Submitted by Schools
9 th June 2021	LEAVING CERTIFICATE WRITTEN EXAMS COMMENCE	'Normal' LC Timetable 9 th June – 29 th June 2021
Mid August 2021	LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAM RESULTS ISSUED	'Normal' Timeline for CAO Offers etc

Oral Examinations

- Will be conducted in school
- Will take place during or after Easter (possibly including weekends)
- Will take place outside of school tuition time – no erosion of tuition time
- Will be face-to-face in the school in line with Public Health advice
- May be conducted by teachers in our school
- The teachers will conduct the orals and record the interview
- Work (digital record) will be sent to the SEC and marked by the SEC
- Students who sit the examinations will need to engage with orals and coursework
- Students can sign up for orals by 9th March (this is an indicative date)

Practicals / Coursework

- ❖ New dates for completion will issue from the SEC
- ❖ It will not be possible to conduct the practical skills tests in a small number of subjects (*e.g. Construction Studies Day Practical*)
- ❖ The proportion of marks for this component will be re-allocated to the remaining assessment components
- ❖ MUSIC – the performance component of the exam will be arranged to ensure adherence with public health requirements – we will receive information about this later this week or early next week
- ❖ To issue soon . . . **Subject-by-subject guide on all subjects with practical/coursework components**