



Loreto Secondary School

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Friday 24th April 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On Friday 10th April 2020, the Minister for Education and Skills Joe McHugh TD announced a series of changes to the 2020 State Examinations as part of measures to respond to Covid-19, including postponement of the Leaving Certificate examinations.

In relation to the Leaving Certificate, the following is a summary of what we know so far:

Practical examinations and LCVP Link modules written examination for Leaving Certificate students which were due to have been held in May are deferred and will be rescheduled for late July/early August.

Yesterday (23th April 2020) in the Dáil, the Minister stated that the Leaving Certificate will begin on Wednesday 29th July 2020 and that the first week of June will see the release of a timetable alongside the structure of how the exams would be sat.

For two weeks prior to the exams it is envisaged that face to face contact will be arranged in schools with Leaving Certificate students. The Department of Education and Skills have given a commitment to engagement with the teacher unions on a viable plan for putting in place arrangements for this and for the Leaving Certificate exams. These discussions have commenced together with discussions with all the other stakeholders in second-level education. We are currently awaiting the outcome of these discussions.

The current public health restrictions including school closures are in place until at least May 5th, at which stage they will be reviewed. If it is the case that our school does not re-open before Friday 29th May 2020 (the last day of term), online teaching and learning for 6th year students will continue until then.

We will of course update you as soon as possible on any further developments.

Ms O'Dwyer, the Year Leader for Sixth Years and Mr McHugh, the Deputy Principal with responsibility for Sixth Years will meet with the students later today online to talk to them about their exams, learning and wellbeing.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Raughter
Principal