



Loreto Secondary School

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25th February 2021

Dear Sixth Year Parent/Guardian,

As you are aware, with each passing day, there are developments concerning the return of students to physical school, how Leaving Certificate Examinations will be conducted in 2021 and various other facets of education as we negotiate this time of international crisis.

The level of engagement and communication from our Sixth Year students has been very impressive, as they navigate a very stressful period of their lives. We encourage the students to keep up the excellent work, and we will work together with you to support the students as they enter their final phase in secondary school, and face into the Leaving Certificate.

The Department of Education and Skills (DES) have recently outlined how the Leaving Certificate will be conducted for the class of 2021. A DES statement about it is available [here](#) and further information becomes available each day. When the students return to school from Monday 1st March, we will outline for them what Leaving Certificate 2021 will entail, meeting with them in their class groups throughout the week. We will continue to communicate with you as new developments emerge, and we will also hold an information meeting for parents/guardians in the week beginning Monday 8th March (Date TBC).

The broad strokes are that there will be two parallel but separate systems:

1. Traditional Leaving Certificate with written exams in June 2021 to include coursework/oral/practical components
2. Accredited Grades, whereby teachers will assign an estimated grade to every student, with oversight by the school, and data sent to the State Examinations Commission (SEC). The SEC then processes this data, using a specially designed mechanism, and awards Accredited Grades to students who opt for this process.

Students may choose either one or opt for both. If students opt for both the result they will get in August will be their best result in each subject.

Mock examinations will NOT go ahead this year in Loreto Bray. As per the DES and SEC, any Mock Examination results cannot be used as part of the Accredited Grades system. Instead, from Monday 1st March, we look forward to welcoming our Sixth Years back to physical school, and we will focus on supporting them as they prepare for Leaving Certificate 2021.

We have sent a letter to all of our Sixth Year students with a similar synopsis, but will give them a much more comprehensive outline next week, including what these developments mean for

Oral, Practical and Coursework components of some subjects. Additionally, we will endeavour to answer any queries that the students may have in these sessions.

Ultimately, the fact that a decision has been taken is very good news for us all, and we can get back to working together towards a common goal- helping your daughters to get the most out of their remaining time in Loreto Bray, and supporting them to do their best in the Leaving Certificate.

In advance of the return of students to physical school, it is required that Parents of students or students over 18 **MUST** complete [this](#) declaration before returning to school.

In filling this form, you will be asked to submit your email address. We will use these email addresses to invite you to any information meetings we will hold regarding Leaving Certificate 2021. For security reasons, we will only be inviting those who register to attend such meetings.

The data that you submit will be used by the school only for the purposes of communicating with you regarding Leaving Certificate 2021. All information given by you will be stored in a digital form and will be kept for the remainder of the school year. It will then be securely destroyed.

I hope that you and your families stay safe and well,

Yours sincerely,



Emma Raughter
Principal