



# LEAVING CERT 2021

What we know so far..  
Feb 26<sup>th</sup> 2021

**NOTE:** information is correct as of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> but as usual can be changed by the Department – we will update you if that happens

# Information received Thur 25<sup>th</sup> Feb from Department of Ed

- **WHAT THE LEAVING CERT LOOKS LIKE:**
- Students will receive the best mark in each subject from either:
  - *Written exams in June or*
  - *Accredited Grade*
- Students can choose
  - *To receive all Accredited Grades and sit no exams*
  - *To sit all written exams and get the Accredited Grades as well*
  - *To sit some exams and get the accredited grade in others*
- Results will be out in mid-August in time for CAO – College/PLC places to be offered
- Shortly after the results coming out students will be able to see the grade given by the school, the adjustment (if any) made by the State Exams Commission and the results of the written exams

# Online Portal

- An “Online Portal” opens on March 8<sup>th</sup>
- Students choose there which exams you will sit in June
- Students also tick to receive Accredited Grades here
- Students also choose your levels for each subject
- The portal will likely be open all that week
- The portal re-opens in late April/early May for students to confirm choices

# Changes to written exams

- Teachers have been sent the changes to the exams and will go through them with you if not done so already
- In the **majority** of exams there will be less questions to do and more choice but you still have the same time
- More information on further exam changes will come to us in the week starting 22<sup>nd</sup> March

# Orals and Coursework

- More information on this is due to be sent to us soon
- In general though:
  - *New dates for completion of coursework will be sent to us soon*
  - *Some subject practicals can't take place*
- Orals will take place for Irish and Modern Foreign Languages
- The school has to schedule them sometime between 26<sup>th</sup> March – 15<sup>th</sup> April
- Must take place before or after school – not during
- Can also be weekends
- The Oral is run by a teacher in the subject area (not necessarily your current teacher)
- They are recorded and sent to the State Exams Commission for marking – they are **not** marked by the teacher here

# Accredited Grades explained..

- Teachers estimate a mark for students based on “**expected performance**”
- This is sent to the State Exams Commission
- They may use evidence from the past such as Junior Cert results, national standards to stick with that result or adjust it – this is called “**standardisation**”
- The accredited grade should recognise student achievement across 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year
- No work completed after May 14<sup>th</sup> is to be considered by teachers
- More details are being sent to teachers soon regarding the process to make sure it is applied consistently

# What evidence can teachers use to estimate Accredited Grades?

- Records of student performance in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year
- Class tests
- Mid-term/Christmas/Easter/Summer Tests in 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> Year
- Performance on any coursework – even it's not completed
- Aural/Oral assessments carried out
- Project work
- Observation of students' learning and progress in lessons
- Students' demonstration of knowledge and key skills – including engagement with oral and other components
- Any other relevant information related to student performance

# Testing

- Tests can be set by teachers up until May 14<sup>th</sup>
- Teachers will avoid “over-testing”
  - *Written tests can be no longer than 1 hour (1 class period for us in PCC)*
  - *Maximum of 3 tests can be given up until May 14th*
- Feedback from teachers on tests is extremely important
  - *That can be a comment*
  - *That can be a mark/percentage etc*
- Teachers will be getting more guidance on this from the Department soon for each subject
- Mocks will not be used **although** when teachers receive mock papers they may use them as homework or part of their class tests or class work



# Teacher Professionalism

- There are 4 principles that guide teachers in their daily work:
  - *Integrity*
  - *Trust*
  - *Care*
  - *Respect*
- This informs how we work to ensure the best outcomes for you as students and it's important that you are aware of this as it is the cornerstone of being a teacher and therefore of this whole process also

# If you are doing a subject outside of PCC

- ...”robust evidence will have to be available on which an estimated mark may be based”
- Principal cannot sign off on outside subject estimated grade unless satisfied that appropriate learning has occurred
- More information will be coming about this

# Appeals

- Appeals of written exams will be the same as it always has been where students can ask to see their script and judge whether to appeal
- Appeal of Accredited Grade can take place but will only focus on if the estimated mark was entered accurately by the school and if it was handled properly by the State Exams Commission – **appeals of Accredited Grades will not focus on how the teacher gave the estimated grade**

# Student/Parent/Teacher Contact

- School staff cannot discuss with any student/parent/guardian the estimated mark being awarded
- Students/parents/guardians must not contact teachers or other members of staff to discuss estimated marks
- Parent Teacher Meetings are not allowed to take place
- Any inappropriate contact from students/parents/guardians to teachers or other staff members around estimated marks may lead to the withholding of results

# School recommendation

- Choose Accredited Grades for all subjects
- Sit all of your exams in June as well
- Why?
  - *This means you will then have two chances of doing well in each subject*
  - *The exams in June are going to be lighter, have less questions and more time to do them and more choice – there will never be a better time to sit your LC Exams*
- Guidance Counsellor Ms Ní Nualláin will be available all day Monday for meetings and at different time during the week next week – email [tninuallain@presentationcollege.ie](mailto:tninuallain@presentationcollege.ie)
- Chaplain Ms Casey will also be available on different days if you need to talk about anything – email [fcasey@presentationcollege.ie](mailto:fcasey@presentationcollege.ie)
- Mr Brown and Ms Mulderrig are also here full-time to talk also. Both will be in our offices