



Monday 11th May 2020

**System for Calculating Grades for Leaving Certificate 2020 &
Teams Meeting for all LC2 Students on Wednesday 13th May @ 5.00p.m.**

As you are very aware, the decision has been taken by the Department of Education & Skills to postpone the Leaving Certificate examinations for 2020 and to offer students a system of Calculated Grades in its place. This includes the traditional Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Applied, and Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

All students will be given the option to receive a State Certificate of Calculated Grades in each subject that they have studied. The calculated grades model will have the same status as Leaving Certificate results awarded to students in previous years, but students will also have the opportunity to sit the conventional Leaving Certificate examination, if they wish. No date is available for this yet but suffice to say that any student who opts for the examination, will not receive results in time for College entry, for this year.

The earlier arrangement by the Department of Education and Skills (communicated in March) that full marks would be awarded in respect of the orals and music performance tests was predicated on the written examinations proceeding this summer. As the examinations will not proceed, that arrangement will not apply.

A system of Calculated Grades will be generated using a statistical model. It will combine estimates of a student's expected performance with the school's statistical profiles of achievement in a subject and level, in line with national performance standards over time. Essentially teachers will use their professional judgement in estimating what result they expect your daughter/son would have attained had he/she completed the Leaving Certificate in June.

The role of the school is to provide marks and rankings that reflect:

- An estimation of the percentage mark in each subject that each candidate is likely to have achieved
- Class ranking for each student in each subject.

As Principal, I will then review the process applied in order to check on the fair treatment of students. As you are aware I have had the privilege of meeting each and every student for a Tracking Meeting over the last year and this insight has provided me with a very good overview of each student's potential.

The school then sends the data to the Department of Education and Skills. This estimation is then aligned with a number of national measurement guidelines in order to ensure fairness for all.

It is important to stress that the calculated grade assigned by the school is not necessarily the final mark that the student will receive and it would therefore be misleading for the student to receive that mark before the calculated grade processes are complete

There will be strong oversight and control and a number of inherent quality assurance measures to ensure students receive as fair a result as possible.

We are now requesting all students and parents/guardians to refrain from contacting teachers or the deputy principal/principal to discuss, query or suggest any reference to subject percentages. We appreciate your cooperation with this request.

We have been advised by the DDL ETB to discontinue teaching our LC2 students at this time and we are awaiting further clarification. I also know that this is not how the staff of Castleknock Community College want to end their time with their students. Following today's staff meeting they asked that I pass on my very best to the Class of 2020 knowing that there will be a time in the not too distant future to say goodbye.

I know that your daughters & sons have many questions that they want answered and with that in mind I am planning to host a Teams Meeting for all Sixth Year students on Wednesday 13th May at 5.00p.m. I hope to send them an invitation through their 365 email account tomorrow. Obviously, I cannot discuss certain matters but I can explain how the process will work. If there are any questions, I cannot answer I will forward them to the DES for clarification.

I have also posted a FAQ document that addresses many of the questions I have been asked in recent days.

Yours sincerely,

John Cronin
Principal