



Leaving Certificate 2 – Update May 2021

Accredited Grades

Over the course of the last few months the first steps of the process of awarding Accredited Grades were conducted and the next stage of the process will commence on Monday 17th May. There are a number of steps involved in getting to an accredited grade that the College will now engage with:

Step 1: Estimated mark and ranking by your teacher

Your teacher will give you an estimate of the mark you would likely have got if you sat the Leaving Certificate exam in normal conditions.

Your teacher will use records of your performance and progress to get your estimated mark, for example: classwork and homework, class assessments and your coursework over the 2 years of the Leaving Certificate cycle.

Step 2: In-school alignment by subject teachers in your school

Subject teachers in your school will then review the estimated marks and ranking of students in that school. Your teacher will finalise their estimated percentage marks and rankings following this alignment process.

If the school has only one teacher of the subject, the ranking review will be done with the deputy principal.

Step 3: Oversight of marks and rankings by the school principal

The school principal will review the marks and ranking data and assure themselves that the process has been fair.

Step 4: National standardisation

Your school principal will submit the estimated marks for national standardisation by 3rd June 2021.

After the standardisation process, the marks will be converted into SEC accredited grades.

Teaching & Learning

At this stage I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to our Sixth Year students for their cooperation in recent months. However, they are now required to remain committed to their classes for another two weeks. It is imperative that students continue to attend classes each day for the next two weeks. Every class will be another learning opportunity in preparation for the Leaving Certificate Exams. I am expecting full attendance from our Leaving Certificate students over the next couple of weeks and all teachers of Sixth Year students will be available for every class from Monday 17th May to Friday 28th May.

I have had a number of requests from students to set up a study hall for the Leaving Certificate Students who may not be sitting some exams in June as they have opted for the Accredited Grades Process. I will not be able to honour this request as the house exams for all other year groups will be commencing and we will need the halls and classrooms to ensure that we maintain the correct Covid 19 protocols. Students who are timetabled for a subject that they are not sitting in June may sit in the class and study. Students will not be facilitated to come to and from school to attend the classes of their choosing and are expected to either attend school for the full day or remain at home. We are committed to delivering a full timetable of classes for the next two weeks.

Our greatest concern is that students will only attend the timetabled classes that they will be sitting exams for in June. If students let their guard down at this stage and return to each other's homes or meet up more frequently, while not adhering to all the Covid 19 requirements, there is a great fear that they will be compromising themselves, their families and their exams in June.

I am appealing to all students to work with us in the coming weeks to maximise each student's opportunities in the 2021 Leaving Certificate.

Graduation 2021 - Thursday 27th May

For the second year in a row we will be hosting a virtual Graduation. This year we will honour the extraordinary contribution made by the class of 2021.

- An in-class ceremony for students via Teams will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 27th May from 2.40-4.00pm Students will gather in their respective tutor groups and will be given their Graduation Packs during this ceremony.
- The formal virtual Graduation Ceremony will take place at 7.00pm that evening.

We look forward to welcoming all our Leaving Certificate Students and their families to our Graduation and Awards Ceremony on Thursday 27th May.

Preparation for the Leaving Cert Exams:

We are working towards the final preparations for the 2021 Leaving Certificate. The State Examinations Commission have been very particular about the safety protocols that need to be put in place to ensure that each student will be safe during the course of the exams: Maximum of ten students to each room, all students two metres apart, etc.

The SEC has also strongly advised that students should limit their contacts as and from Friday 28th May to minimise their exposure and risk of infection from Covid19. This in turn will limit the risk of students falling ill during the State Exams in June and having to rely on Accredited Grades or potentially exposing other students in their Exam Centre to infection and compromising their ability to sit the written exams. We are making one final appeal to all our LC2 students to keep doing the simple things well to ensure that every student is given the best chance to achieve their potential in their Leaving Certificate Examinations.

CAO Update from Guidance Department

We will continue to offer our full support to all our LC2 Students and their families over the course of the next seven weeks. Please remember that our Guidance Counsellors will be available to our students in the coming weeks.

A Statement of Application Record email will be sent to instruct all students to log in and confirm that their information has been recorded completely and correctly on their CAO Account. Failure to follow this instruction may have consequences for their application. Check every detail. If you do not receive this email before the end of May, you must contact The CAO. Please view the video that has been posted on the students' Guidance Page on MS Teams. Please contact the Guidance Department if you have any queries.

Kind regards
John Cronin