



Leaving Cert 2021

Information for Parents & Students
March 9th 2021

Agenda

6th Yr.2021 St Louis - Our Context & culture

Candidate Portal

Accredited Grades process

Trad. Leaving Cert -Orals, practicals & coursework deadlines

Trad. Leaving Cert written papers

Supporting Wellbeing & Growth mindset - Sharon Fennelly -Coach



Course content covered- to date



Most subjects report the courses are covered or will be done by March 26th

Leaves over 12 weeks for revision...

Home Ec, OL Maths & Chemistry report having some material to teach after the Easter break

All staff report excellent engagement and effort from students

12 weeks is a lot of time

Teachers believe you are
going to be fully prepared...

We know you can do it!



Our Teachers
experienced and
many are SEC
examiners



Course Content Covered - Teacher feedback re Exams prep

“ Students make massive improvements in last few months... this allows them to improve in the exams rather than depending on older data from 5th /6th year...So I believe taking the exam could help them improve their grade”

“ We have done a whole paper for Christmas test in Dec 2020... so they are well placed for sitting the exam in June and showing their full potential”

Course Content Covered - Teacher feedback re Exams prep

“ Engagement with online learning has been really good and their knowledge of material covered doesn't seem to have suffered. Fingers crossed they continue like this for the remaining few months!”

Teachers who are SEC Examiners- Feedback

“The big grade-changer in Irish is the oral exam, which is worth 40%. I know from experience that the oral can really improve a candidate's final grade and so I am encouraging all my students to sit the exam.

The oral exam is of particular benefit to those aiming for a H1/H2 but also (and perhaps more importantly) for borderline candidates, who would have great difficulty achieving a pass grade without it.”

We advise all
students to register
for both
Accredited Grades
&
Leaving Cert exams

A candidate can
opt out of exams
in late April /
May but one cannot
opt in after March
16th 2021

Candidate Portal opens tomorrow.....

Opens **Wednesday 10th March at 12 noon** for 6 days only

Closes at **6pm on Tuesday 16th March.**

One and only chance to enter for Exams in June

You can change your mind and withdraw but **cannot enter late in most subjects (new info today via vsware)**

Everyone should apply for BOTH Accredited & Exams at this stage

Completing oral, aural and coursework anyway for Accredited Grade Process until May 14th

Levels (H ,O ,F) will be included but also confirmed later



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Candidate Portal opens tomorrow.....

Candidate Name

Exam Number

DOB

First 4 digits of PPSN



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Accredited Grades process



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Student & Teacher continue to work together ,
in the normal way, until May 14.

Teacher gathers data casually from class
tests, classwork, homework, projects,
coursework , aural, oral...all this work must
continue even if you are not sitting a final
written paper... All of it forms the estimated
grade sent to SEC

Calculated Grades 2020 - students at home & no interaction with Teachers

Accredited Grades 2021 - students in school interacting with teachers- sensitivity & anxiety over Teachers' perceived perception of performance...

Teachers have to do their normal work - last few months - focus on critique / honing skills/ small % improvements via specific individual feedback -

Navigating sensitivities - new dynamic in classrooms

Students should try not to focus on final accredited % - they will not be told what it is & it is not being decided until late May

Teachers want to discuss levels & performance in class and in small assessments without the fear that students are “reading” into every comment as a clue to the possible final estimated %

Estimated % decided by Subject Teacher-

Discussed & moderated by colleagues in same Department-

Check for a consistent standard - not too harsh or lenient

Shared with Principal - checked, returned if there was an issue

Agreed & signed off by Principal - very thorough in 2020

Sent to State Exams Commission

State Examinations Commission apply own checks & adjustments- This is called Standardisation

In 2020 four key sources of data would be used to process students' estimated marks through a standardisation process:

- Estimated marks and rankings of students supplied by teachers;
- **Junior cycle exam performance for students' classes (to be used as a predictor for the collective performance of a class in 2020);**
- Historical national distribution of students' results on a subject-by-subject basis (this is used every year to ensure results are comparable)
- Historical school data based on past Leaving Cert exam performance in schools across three prior years.

From early on, however, the decision to include this final data set became a source of criticism....

Junior cycle exam performance for students' classes (to be used as a predictor for the collective performance of a class in 2020)

take for example a History class - to check accuracy the following data was considered for everyone in the History Class...

JC English

JC Irish

JC Maths

+ 2 lowest results in 2 other subjects

Marks adjusted in line with this data set for everyone in the class group

Details for 2021 are still vague - we expect that Historical Data will not be used but we have no guarantee of the Government approach in 2021 - Political decision last year - pressure TRUST?

High standard of Teacher Evaluation in 2020

We did not inflate grades
But the estimated grades
are at the mercy of an
external system of data
adjustment over which we have
no control



Accredited Grade is a Safety net for

Students can attempt the exam and either exceed their own expectations or struggle through and still have a safety net.

Preparation for life & College Work

Dropout rate in 3rd Level (especially Institutes of Technology) is very high so need to know how to face this exam challenge.

There will always be stressful situations to overcome

Face the challenge - achieve success and build esteem for life

School prepares us for life..... pandemic has brought many challenges and we have overcome each one.

Leaving Cert & progression to 3rd Level /
Work is one more

Students have parents & Teachers to support them & a very strong foundation of learning over 2 years

We strongly advise doing the EXAMS..

1. It is process where students have more control
2. Important learning moment to prove to themselves they can meet challenges and overcome them.....Achieve the goal they set out to do and graduate in the full knowledge that they had the full school-life experience and hit every milestone

Exam Preparation

Oral assessments
Practicals
Projects



Teachers will
conduct oral tests
to be assessed
externally



Irish, French &
Spanish confirmed.
Arabic, Dutch,
Latvian & Russian-
no details yet how
these orals might be
assessed.

Oral Assessments 20-40%

Gaeilge

Friday 26th &
Saturday 27th March

French & Spanish - other MFL

Wed 7th - 10th April
Return to school on
12th April

Music Practicals

Health & Safety
Guidelines in place

2nd Week of Easter
Tues 6th - Sat 10th

External Examiners

Live or pre-recorded



Technology, Art, PE Adjustments but will contribute to overall %



Coursework - extended deadlines

Home Economics	Completed & marked	
Economics	March 15th	
PE -Physical Activity Project	March 22nd	Performance Assessment cancelled
History & Geog	April 23rd	
Art	May 20th	
Technology	May 27th	
LCA Tasks LCA practicals 2 Key Assignments	Week 6th April & May May 17th- 21st Orals & Exams go ahead	Marks added to portfolio- no interviews

All Exam Centres - Health & Safety

Clearance of 2 m between candidates

Large ventilated spaces

Sanitizing and hand washing facilities

Stay in same room throughout exams

Stay in same pod throughout exams

Each centre 4 m from another in a hall / gym

Summary

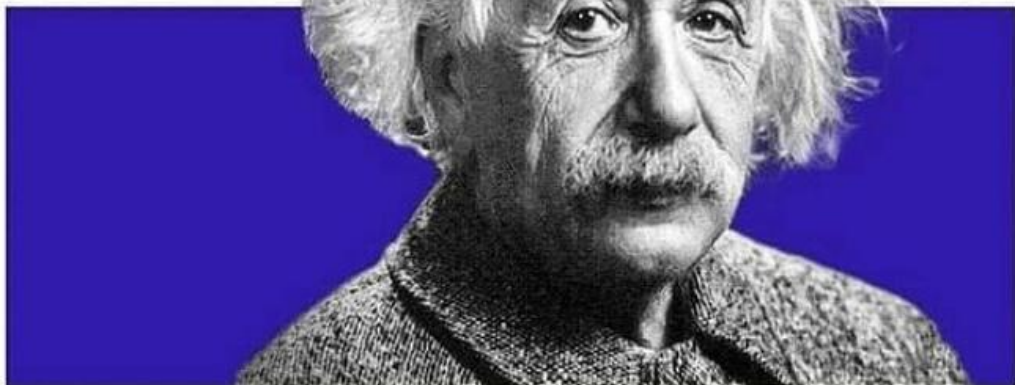
Teachers believe our students will be fully prepared for Estimated Grades & full exams

We advise that everyone register to do both - can change your mind late April / May but cannot enter late without serious consequences

Take feedback from Teachers as support not judgement

Growth mindset - we can all improve with specific feedback, revision and honing exam technique- **GROWTH MINDSET**

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**In the middle of difficulty
lies opportunity.**

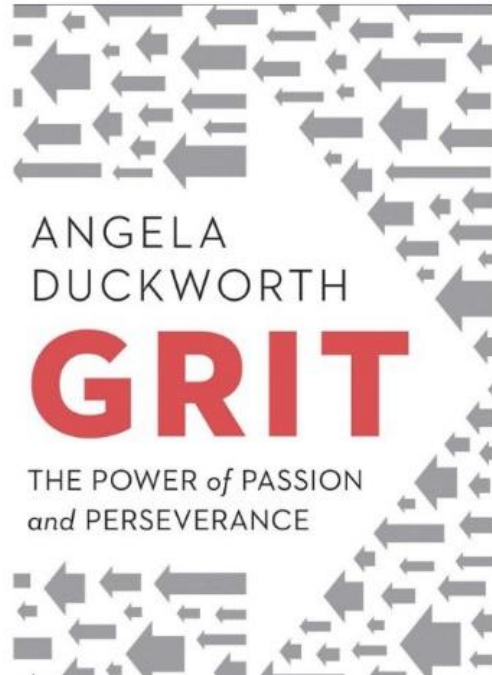
Albert Einstein

YOUR JOURNEY HAS MOLDED
YOU FOR YOUR GREATER GOOD,
AND IT WAS EXACTLY WHAT IT NEEDED TO BE.
DON'T THINK THAT YOU'VE LOST TIME.
IT TOOK EACH AND EVERY
SITUATION YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED
TO BRING YOU TO THE NOW.
AND NOW IS RIGHT ON TIME.

-ASHA TYSON-

A bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking, because its trust is not on the branch but on its own wings.

Robin Book Club



"Grit is passion and
perseverance for very
long term goals...
Grit is living life like it's a
marathon not a sprint."

-Angela Duckworth

Strength and growth come
only through continuous
effort and struggle

- Napoleon Hill

A hand-drawn quote on a blue grid background. The text is written in a colorful, casual font. The words are: 'INSTEAD OF BEING' (orange, blue, blue), 'AFRAID OF FAILURE' (orange, blue, orange), 'BE GRATEFUL FOR' (orange, orange, blue), and 'THE OPPORTUNITY' (orange, blue, blue). There are several yellow hand-drawn stars scattered around the text. The background is a dark blue grid.

* INSTEAD OF BEING
* AFRAID OF FAILURE
* BE GRATEFUL FOR
* THE OPPORTUNITY

@BYHAPPYAL



**Don't study because you need to.
Study because knowledge is power.
Study because they can never take it
away from you.
Study because you want to know more.
Study because it enhances you.
Study because it grows you.**

@THEGROWTHMINDSET