



POBALSCOIL NA BÓINNE BOYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Trim,
Co. Meath.
C15RK79

Charity Reg. No. 20204530

March 3rd 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We acknowledge that this has been a particularly difficult time for students preparing to sit their Leaving Certificate examination and indeed for parents and guardians who supported them during this time. The Minister for Education confirmed the options available to students for the 2021 Leaving Certificate on the 17th of February. This letter will hopefully answer some questions around this.

Student's results will be based on:

1. Students' performance in LC examinations in any subject including, where appropriate, their performance in the completion of additional components (coursework, orals, etc.).
2. Students' SEC Accredited Grades in each subject based on schools' estimates of students' likely performance in the examination and a national standardisation process.

Students will receive the combined outcomes of their SEC accredited grades and their examinations (if they choose to sit examinations) at the same time upon the issuing of Leaving Certificate results. **Where, in any subject, a student has also sat the examination, he/she will be credited with the better of the two results.** The candidate's results will be transferred to the CAO to facilitate progression to Higher Education. There will be no alternative sitting of examinations if students are, for any reason, unable to sit their examination in June. **As such it is crucial that students register for the accredited grade option even if they plan to sit the examination.**

As part of this process **students MUST log on to the SEC student portal on the week of the 8th of March** (more information on this closer to the time). Here they will be asked to do the following;

- They must choose to opt in to Examinations and/or Accredited Grades.
- They must also provide details on which **subjects** they study and the **levels** at which they wish the Accredited Grade and/or Examination to be assessed at.

Students will be given an opportunity to re-evaluate this in late March or April. Further information on the adjustments of subjects, including the number of questions in examinations, is due to be clarified by the State Examinations Commission on the week of the 22nd of March.

In the case of students taking the examination option, oral examinations will be arranged by the school during the Easter period and shortly after. This will be outside tuition time and subject to public health advice. Coursework will also proceed in subjects where it forms a normal part of the examination. There will be no practical exams for Construction and Engineering. The proportion of the marks for the performance assessment will now go towards the project component. **The Music performance component is due to take place in the period around Easter**, subject to public health advice. **Written examinations are scheduled to commence on the 9th of June and the full timetable is available on the [SEC Website](#).**

In the Accredited Grading process, the grades will be arrived at through two phases. Firstly, teachers will use a range of available evidence to support their judgement-making in estimating the percentage marks to award to students. They will then engage in an in-school alignment process with other teachers in the school. The school principal will oversee this process. Following this alignment process, these school marks will be subjected to a national standardization process carried out by the SEC. Improper influence by stakeholders on the estimation process could lead to the withholding of results or more serious consequences.

The most current information on all matters relating to Leaving Certificate examinations and the Accredited Grades process will be available on an ongoing basis on gov.ie/LeavingCertificate.

The Guidance Department can be contacted through the school office for further clarification around any of this. Alternatively, they can be contacted through email at fflanagan@boynecs.ie, beustace@boynecs.ie, hbailey@boynecs.ie. It's important to note that the CAO and PLC application processes are continuing as usual so keeping on top of this is crucial. There will be a video about the SUSI grant application which will be shared before it opens in April. This Leaving Certificate year has many more variables than usual. Considering this if you would like to speak to the Guidance Counsellor's about any concerns or careers options for your son/daughter this can be arranged to be conducted over the phone or by Zoom by contacting the emails above.

Yours faithfully,



Jean Ryan
Principal