



**OUR
LADY'S
SCHOOL**
TERENURE



1st May 2020

Junior Cycle Examinations 2020

Dear Parents and 3rd Year students,

As you are now aware, the Minister for Education and Skills has decided that the Junior Cycle examinations will not now take place in the autumn. The uncertainty over the Junior Cycle has been difficult for our students who have worked very hard over the past 3 years and in particular since September.

We are happy to see that our students will be able to complete their studies at the end of May and enjoy their summer without the stress of exams hanging over them. Their wellbeing at these times is a priority, we prefer them to have an exam free summer and to be revitalised for the coming academic year and for all the exciting opportunities that Transition Year has to offer.

I hope you will appreciate that there is no perfect solution to an alternative method of assessing our 3rd Year students after weeks of remote teaching and learning but we hope to be as fair as possible and to award our students positively for their work over the last 3 years. In doing so, we will also recognise that these last weeks have brought extra challenges to some of our students to engage productively in remote learning.

It is now our intention to put in place arrangements which would allow us to finish off Junior Cycle studies at the end of May. The Minister has outlined that Junior Cycle students 2020 will receive both a school report and a State Certificate.

- **A School Report setting out the learning achievements of students in Junior Cycle.** Students will receive a written report from Our Lady's School on the broad range of learning that they have achieved in each subject at the end of Junior Cycle. This assessment of their learning will be provided by their teachers.
- **A State Certificate of completion of Junior Cycle from the Department of Education and Skills.** Students should receive a State Certification from the Department that they have completed three years of Junior Cycle education in a number of subjects.

Plan for 3rd Years

1. In the final 2 weeks of May, from the 18th - 27th, all Junior Cycle subjects will be assessed in one exam paper per subject. These papers will be determined by individual subject departments.

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2. There will be up to two 3rd Year exams per day.
3. Each subject department will decide the length of their exams and include additional time to compensate for internet issues and issues with devices. The length of the exam will be communicated clearly by teachers to their classes on Tuesday.
4. The new descriptors will be used for all subjects, except those still running the old specifications (for example, Geography).
5. The final descriptor/grade awarded to each student in each subject will be determined by the subject department based on the terminal exam and an assessment of the individual student's work over the past three years. This will allow subject departments to address any anomalies in the results of the terminal exam. Teachers will consider house exams and the results of the mocks and other examinations from 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year in determining a grade. 50% of the final grade will be allocated to house and mock exams from 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year and 50% will be allocated to the end of year remote exam.
6. Each subject department will decide on the material to be revised for the exam and will let their classes know.
7. Open Book exams. Since these exams will be completed remotely, generally on a computer, they will be in most cases open book exams. Each subject department will let their classes know if their exam is open book or not. Having an open book exam means you will have access to information as you sit the exams. You will be tested on your ability to use that information to answer questions demonstrating your knowledge of your subject.

Teachers will communicate information about their own subjects to their students on Tuesday and there will be an assembly on Wednesday for all 3rd Year students where they can ask any necessary questions.

I wish our students every success in the upcoming examinations.

Yours sincerely,

Marguerite Gorby

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