



**OUR  
LADY'S  
SCHOOL**  
TERENURE



**22nd March, 2021**

## **Junior Cycle Examinations 2021**

Dear Parents and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year students,

I hope that you and your families are keeping well.

As you are now aware, the Minister for Education has decided that the Junior Cycle examinations will not now take place in June 2021. 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.

I hope you will appreciate that there is no perfect solution to an alternative method of assessing our 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 times of remote teaching and learning have brought extra challenges to some of our students to engage productively in remote learning.

In place of the Junior Cycle mock examinations we put in place a 2 week in-class assessment window from March 15<sup>th</sup> to March 26<sup>th</sup>.

It is now our intention to put in place arrangements to provide our students with an Our Lady's final Junior Cycle grade descriptor for each subject studied. The Minister has outlined that Junior Cycle students 2021 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Years**

1. 3<sup>rd</sup> Year students will sit school designed assessments set to a timetable this May, beginning on May 17<sup>th</sup>. All Junior Cycle subjects will be assessed in one exam paper per subject. These papers will be determined by individual subject departments.
2. The new Junior Cycle descriptors will be used to award the grades for all subjects.
3. The final Grade Descriptor will be awarded for: Recognition of prior learning from 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year – House February & Summer Exams together with Mid-Term Assessments in 3<sup>rd</sup> Year which took place in November and March. This will account for 50% of the final grade. The timetabled Summer 2021 assessments will account for the other 50% of the final grade.

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4. Each subject department will decide on the material to be revised for the exam and will let their classes know in due course.

Teachers will communicate information about their own subjects to their students upon the return to school after Easter. We would remind all students to ensure that they have submitted any outstanding CBAs. We wish to acknowledge the great efforts that 3rd Year students have made during this phase of remote learning and commend them for their engagement and application throughout.

The complete **School Based Assessment Policy for Junior Cycle Students 2021** is also attached here and can be accessed on the school website.

We very much look forward to having our full student cohort return following the Easter break and we wish our 3rd Years a restful Easter.

Yours sincerely,

Marguerite Gorby  
Principal

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