



# Accredited Grades and the Leaving Cert Exam

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

- o We know it has been a difficult time and continues to be an anxious time for everyone
- o Clarity has been given and that is positive
- o Once more facts are known we will inform students
- o We still do not have specific details in some areas but it is very positive step that Leaving Certs are back in school

# Leaving Cert 2021

- o **ALL** LC students receive an Accredited Grade
- o Student Portal will open on Wed 10<sup>th</sup> March. Portal allows students to opt for Accredited Grade **OR** Traditional LC exam **OR** Both
- o ISK **VERY STRONGLY** advises that **ALL** students opt for **BOTH**
- o Very Simple reason – Opting for Both gives students the **BEST CHANCE** and students maintain an influence on their grades

# Exam Portal

Opens this Wednesday, the **10th of March at 12.00 noon.**

**Step 1** - Create your own account on the portal - you will need your exam number

**Step 2** - To log in you will need your Personal ID number – this is the first 4 digits of your PPSN.

**Step 3** – Make sure your subjects and levels are correct

**Step 4** - Indicate whether you are opting for Examinations, Accredited Grades or both on a subject-by-subject basis.

The Portal will **close at 6pm on March 16th.**

It will re-open at the end of April/ beginning of May.

At this stage you can change your levels for the subjects and you may opt **out of the exams.**

**NOTE: You will not be able to opt into the taking the written exams after the March 16th deadline!!**

# Traditional Leaving Cert

- o Starts from 9<sup>th</sup> June
- o Specific details (dates) on each subject regarding practical/coursework has been published
- o Orals & Coursework **MUST** be done if students are sitting exams. If students don't do them – then simply they can't be marked on them

Coursework Leaving Certificate 2021	Category	Completion Date	Submission/Marking arrangements
Home Economics	1	Completed	Already submitted and marked.
LCVP Portfolio of Coursework	1	March 12	To facilitate timely marking of this subject, return by post to SEC immediately following the completion date of March 12
Economics#	1	March 15	Retained in school. Printed and returned to SEC together with the written script in June.
Design and Communication Graphics	2	March 19	Return by post to the SEC during week ending 26 March.
Physical Education – Physical Activity Project	2	March 22	Projects returned to SEC via School Portal during week beginning April 12.
History	1	April 23	Retained in school. Returned to SEC together with the written script in June
Geography	1	April 23	Retained in school. Returned to SEC together with the written script in June
Religious Education	1	April 23	Retained in school. Returned to SEC together with the written script in June
Agricultural Science#	1	April 23	Retained in school. Printed and returned to SEC together with the written script in June
Engineering (project)	2	May 7	Retained in schools for marking
Politics and Society#	1	May 7	Retained in school. Printed and returned to SEC together with the written script in June
Art	2	May 20	Retained in schools for marking
Technology	2	May 27	Retained in schools for marking
Computer Science	2	May 27	Projects returned to SEC via the School Portal immediately following the completion date of May 27
Construction Studies (project)	2	May 28	Retained in schools for marking
Home Economics (Textile Studies Elective)	2	May 28	Retained in schools for marking

\*The SEC will issue further guidance to schools on the requirements for each subject prior to the closing date(s) for submission.

# Practical coursework in these subjects must be returned in hard copy together with the written script and not through the School Portal as previously notified.

# What is an Accredited Grade?

- o An SEC Accredited Grade is a grade that can be provided to a student in respect of a subject following the combination by the SEC of a school estimated percentage mark for a student's expected performance in an examination and national data available in relation to the performance of students in examinations over a period of time.

# Accredited Grades

- o All LC students receive an Accredited Grade
- o Four steps in the school's role:
- o **Step 1** – Teacher's estimation of student percentage marks
- o **Step 2** - School Alignment for a subject through subject alignment group
- o **Step 3** – Oversight of alignment process by the principal
- o **Step 4** – Transmission of marks for national standardisation
- o Out of School Subjects will also be facilitated as in 2020
- o Time Frame: Alignment Process 31<sup>st</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June



# Leaving Cert Results

- Results are due in Mid August as usual
- Each student will only get **one grade** - whichever grade is higher, either the Accredited Grade or Traditional LC Grade
- Exams have already been adjusted to account for tuition time lost last year
- Exams will be adjusted further to account for lost time this year. Details will be published on a subject-by-subject basis on the week of March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

# Appeals

- o Appeals process for students sitting the exam is as per normal
- o Appeals process for accredited grades only checks for clerical errors – teacher/school results cannot be appealed.

# Orals

- o Orals will be conducted in schools
- o During the Easter Holidays – Irish week 1 and MFL week 2
- o Orals Conducted by a teacher – possibly class teacher/departmental colleague/ teacher from other school/ retired teacher & then sent to the SEC to be marked
- o Teacher **does not mark the Oral** – SEC does

# Practical/Coursework

- o Practical / coursework can only go ahead in accordance with Public Health Advice
- o Where they can not go ahead, the marking scheme of the Exam will be adjusted to reflect this e.g. Construction Studies

# Music

- o Performance component of the exam will be arranged to ensure adherence with public health recommendation
- o Will take place on the second week of the Easter Holidays



o No Mocks

o Limited Additional testing  
by class teachers could  
occur until 14<sup>th</sup> May

# Health and Safety

- o Great to have the school open again but we want to keep it open
- o Please emphasise to your son or daughter the importance of adhering to the guidelines regarding masks, sanitising, one-way systems, physical distancing etc.
- o If your son/daughter is displaying any symptoms, err on the side of caution and do not send them to school



Questions?