



Meanscoil na Toirbhirte

Presentation Secondary School

**Lios Tuathail
Co. Chiarraí**

**Listowel
Co. Kerry**

26th February 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

I hope that you and your families are safe and well at this time.

We are looking forward very much to having you with us on Monday 1st March. Ahead of your return to school I wish to bring a few matters to your attention.

Return to Educational Facility Parental Declaration Form

Please complete the Declaration Form before Monday, you can email the form to reception@preslistowel.ie

Infection Prevention Control Measures - To prevent Introduction and Spread of COVID-19

We advise pupils to self-isolate or restrict their movements at home if they display any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and contact their family doctor to arrange a test

Hand Hygiene/Masks/ Physical Distancing / Ventilation

Please ensure that you comply with the requirements regarding the above at all times.

Given the increased transmissibility of the new COVID variants, we are particularly concerned about social distancing and mask wearing during morning break and lunch time. We are asking students to limit their eating time to 15 minutes.

State Examinations and Accredited Grade for Leaving Certificate 2021

We are very pleased that we now, management, staff, parent/guardians/students have been informed about the State Examinations and Accredited Grade for Leaving Certificate 2021 process.

You will have received the Guide, below, this morning on Teams from Mrs O'Sullivan. This document has also be placed on the website, parents and guardians have received a text with the link to the document today.

**A Guide to
State Examinations and
Accredited Grades for
Leaving Certificate 2021**



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Mrs Linnane, the Deputy Principal and I will be speaking with you on Monday about the Guide document.

We will communicate with you all very clearly regarding the detail and timelines outlined in that Guide.

I wish to bring your attention to some of the most important aspect of the document:

State Examinations

All students may opt to take Leaving Certificate examinations, (including written examinations and related additional components in each subject as appropriate) in 2021.

The State Examinations Commission will put in place the necessary arrangements to provide these examinations, subject to prevailing health advice.

Students who wish to take the examinations will be able to participate in orals and coursework while those who do not will have the option of the SEC Accredited Grade.

Oral examinations

Oral examinations in Irish and modern foreign languages will take place in schools during the period from 26 March 2021 to 15 April 2021

SEC Accredited Grades will be provided:

- *In addition to examinations: As far as possible, students will be provided with SEC Accredited Grades for all subjects for which they are entered in the Leaving Certificate examinations in 2021, provided that adequate evidence is available on which to base an SEC Accredited Grade.*

- *To students who are unable to sit the examinations at the scheduled time:*

For example, some students may be at very high-risk from COVID-19; some students may be required to self-isolate and/or restrict their movements for all or part of the period of the examinations; or they may have a bereavement or other medically certified illness which prevents them from sitting the examinations.

Having the SEC Accredited Grade will enable the student to receive a grade in such cases. There will be no opportunity to sit the 2021 examinations at a later date.

- *When it is not possible to take the examinations: It may not be possible to run the examinations in one or more examination centres because of COVID-19 related restrictions. In such cases, students will instead rely on an SEC Accredited Grade*

Students will be required to register on the SEC's Candidate Portal; confirm their subject and level entry details; opt for the examinations and/or to receive SEC Accredited Grades.

The SEC's Candidate Portal is expected to open in the week of 8 March 2021 to allow students to make their choices.

Students will have approximately one week in which to do this.



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*Details of the students' choices will be provided to each school. **The portal will re-open in late April/early May to enable candidates to review their choices.***

The final confirmed candidate details will be provided to schools in advance of the in-school process

Safeguards for teachers' professional judgement:

Re-engaging with their teachers and peers in a face-to-face environment provides an opportunity to support student wellbeing and to discuss future education and career options.

However, overtures or approaches by parents/guardians, students and others to, and/or discussions with teachers and/or school management in relation to school estimated marks submitted, as part of the Accredited Grades process are prohibited.

Are additional assessments required?

Following the return to school, teachers may set a limited number of additional assessments up to 14 May 2021.

It is important in the period leading up to the determination of estimated percentage marks that over-assessment is avoided and that an appropriate balance is achieved between formative and summative assessment.

Insofar as possible, during this period, teachers should maintain the modes of assessment and feedback that are familiar to students and that are consistent with the methodologies and approach that they would normally adopt at this stage of the year. The provision of feedback to students on completed assessments will be particularly important given the context of school closure periods

Where opportunities for the provision for feedback to students on their work varied.

The feedback provided should be aligned to the type of assessment used, which means that it can include a formative comment, descriptor of achievement or a numeric indicator such as a mark or percentage.

Should a teacher set additional assessments up to 14 May, these assessments should be considered proportionately with other forms of evidence of the student's learning over the programme.

We will endeavour to support all students at this challenging time. The Guidance Counsellor is also available at all times for students.

Kind wishes

Eileen Kennelly

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