



LETTER RE JUNIOR CERTIFICATE

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s)

The Minister of Education, Mr Joe Mc Hugh announced on Wednesday that the Junior Cert Examination in September would now NOT be going ahead. This decision has been welcomed by St Joseph's in the best interest of our students and indeed parent(s)/guardian(s) and staff. We hope it will reduce any stress and bring closure to your daughters three years hard work in a timely fashion.

The Minister has given autonomy to each school to devise their own assessment procedure. After positive engagement and dialogue with all staff, parents association, a number of students and the Board of Management as to how best assess and record your daughters academic achievement in a fair and equitable way, we have formulated what we feel is a fair and equitable solution. and that the integrity of assessment is upheld. Cognisance also that your daughter's health and wellbeing is of the utmost importance.

We propose the following:

- (A) An end of year assessment This will account for 20%
- (B). Predicted grade. This will account for 80%

(A). End of year Assessment

End of year assessments will be drawn up by each department with each student getting the same paper. Assessment will be done remotely. No assessment will be longer than one hour. Her teachers will let her know the volume of work that the assessment will be based on. These school based assessments/ assignments will be marked by the class teacher. We will take cognisance of students accessibility to remote learning. Should your daughter require a loan of a digital device for these assessments please e mail me at mariemaccabe@stjosephscastlebar.com

We are advised that in preparing assessments/ assignments the method or format of assessment used should be inclusive of students with special needs and provide differentiated approaches to allow students with SEN to access the appropriate assessment mode and be

adaptable to their particular context.

(B). Predicted grade.

Your daughters results in her schools Christmas and Summer exams in Second year plus her results in her Christmas and Mock exams in third year will be analysed and predict the most likely result your daughter would have received in her Junior Cert Exam. This we feel gives an accurate , unbiased predicted grade.

We have engaged a specialist statistical modelling company to analyse these results. The mock results will receive a higher weighting % within the 80%.

All end of year assessments/ assignments for third years will be finish on Thursday 28th May 2020. Timetable below. Guidelines for assessments/ assignments will follow.

I take this opportunity to thank your daughter for her patience, commitment to work, engagement with online learning and her respect and kindness. I also thank you, Parent(s)/Guardian(s) for your patience, your help, support, kindness and your most supportive comments to my staff and myself. I wish to acknowledge the great work and care that the staff and teachers of St Joseph's give but especially have given in these most difficult time. The Department of Education and Skills will issue each student with a certificate of completion of Junior Cycle in due course.

Summer holidays start for your Junior Cert daughter on Friday 29th May 2020. Information in relation to Transition year or Fifth year will be communicated to you/ daughter at a later stage. So until we meet up in September when your daughter will be a member of the senior cycle of St Joseph's , keep safe, healthy and happy.

Kind regards and God Bless

Marie Mac Cabe

Principal.