



3RD YEARS
END OF YEAR EXAMS / ASSESSMENT MAY 2020
24-04-2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

I hope you are all well and keeping safe and sound during these times. It is positive to hear the impact of our collective efforts as a nation on the effective management of the spread of the Covid 19 virus. As a school we thank all students and parents for their engagement over the last number of weeks and we are anxious to ensure our Junior Certificate students in particular that we are doing everything we can to support them in this Junior Certificate year. There is a lot of uncertainty, which in some cases is unhelpful. Despite the present school closure and unlikelihood that we will be back before the end of May, I write to advise all 3rd years that they will be issued with a Salesian College summer report from in June 2020.

Whilst the Department of Education has stated that the Junior Certificate exams will take place in September “in-house”, I believe, as School Principal, there will be serious challenges to the practicalities of this – but we will wait and see. This announcement by the DES may already have had a negative effect on the level of engagement of third years with their teaching and learning in Salesian College and also across the country.

For our 3rd year students in Salesian College I believe it is imperative that we maintain a momentum of continuous working, more online classes (live and recorded), new topics, new challenges, new presentations on the curriculum for all our subjects up until the end of the academic year. In order to present a report in June all 3rd year students will have an end of year assessment.

Why?

It is important for us to have an assessment of our third years before they go into senior cycle - whether TY or 5th year. We wish to have an assessment of our third years based on their present levels and their work and engagement at this time. It is challenging to say the least how a JC exam completed in September could be deemed a fair representation of a student’s ability if students have been on summer holidays for 3 months and last attended school in March 2020. By having such an in-house assessment by June this will facilitate an easier start to the new school year in September. I believe it will also focus students back on their work and studies to the end of May.

How is this going to happen

Subject teachers will advise all 3rd years of the format of their end of year assessment. It may be

- a combination of continuous assessment and a formal exam /exercise / assignment

Or

- A formal exam /exercise / assignment only

Students will be advised of a draft “exam timetable” for the week 25th-29th May.

Students will be advised of their grades and teachers will fill in the summer reports as usual.

I will send a video message to all third years on Friday 24th April to explain this end of year assessment to them.

We will publish these reports for parents & guardians on VS Ware and parents will be advised of this via text message.

SPHE Classes

Well done to all our students and teachers on their work this year in SPHE. We would also like to congratulate our students on their participation and excellent engagement in all our Wellbeing activities this year including our Wellbeing Week in February which was a great success. It has been agreed following due consideration that we will not continue with our SPHE classes for the final term. We are mindful of the pressures on students to complete coursework under difficult circumstances as well as the issues and time constraints that arise from sharing ICT equipment at home. Additional time will be included in our plan for the next academic year as appropriate to each year group. We would encourage our students to look after their mental health at this time by continuing to put into practice all they have learned this year both in and out of school. A list of resources to support mental health can be found on our website and please continue to let us know in the school if we can help and support you in any way.

On-line engagement / ICT support

I invite any student to contact me about ICT support from the school. In the long-term it is very likely that we may have to organise a different school week for the coming academic year. There may be restrictions on numbers in the school building to ensure social distancing. We may have to consider 1st Years only on Monday, 2nd years on Tuesday and so on. Therefore, we must prepare for long term on-line teaching and learning. We as a staff are doing our best to upskill and it is our aim to have more live / online teaching from all teachers as soon as possible. We are mainly using Office 365 – One Note & Teams. It is really important that parents contact us if there are issues with this for us to see if we can offer any assistance.

Subject Awards & Student of the Year

Even though we are not in school, we will nominate our Students of the year and the organise the awards for the subject departments. We will organise the announcement and presentation of these awards on the re-opening of the school.

I sincerely thank and commend all the teachers for their work and all the students who have regularly checked in, completed assignments and engaged in live classes. I thank Mr. David Maguire, Year head for keeping in touch with students. It is a new experience for us all but one we can work through.

We are here to support our students, please contact us at office@Salesianscelbridge.com with any query and we will do our best to assist.

Thank you

Ms. Brenda Kearns, Principal