



Larkin Community College
Coláiste Pobail Lorcáin

11th May 2020

Dear Student and Parent/Guardian

As you are aware, the decision was made last Friday by the Department of Education and Skills to postpone the Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied examinations scheduled to commence on 29 July 2020 and to offer students a system of Calculated Grades. Hopefully this will bring an end to a period of great anxiety for all our Leaving Certificate Applied and Leaving Certificate students and their parents/guardians.

Leaving Certificate & Leaving Certificate Applied 2020 Information

We are awaiting further clarity and more details from the Department of Education Skills prior to engaging in the process and the steps as outlined in the Guideline to Calculated Grades for the Leaving Certificate 2020. Further updates will be provided as we receive them.

All students will be given the option to receive a State Certificate of Calculated Grades in each subject. It will have the same status as Leaving Certificates awarded to students in previous years.

Students will also have the opportunity to sit the conventional Leaving Certificate examination if they wish at the earliest safe and practical time.

There cannot be any discussion or contact between Larkin Community College staff and students or parents/guardians regarding the student's overall percentage mark. To do so risks the integrity of the process. The estimated percentage mark is not the final grade, as there is a system in place to ensure the grades are based on more data analysed at a national level. The system has many checks and balances in it. No student should be afraid that a poor result in a Mock Exam or test, will determine the estimated percentage mark.

We are therefore asking all students and parents/guardians to refrain from contacting teachers to discuss, query or suggest any reference to subject percentages. We appreciate your cooperation with this request.

The Department of Education and Skills has also confirmed that ***“Senior Cycle for the current 6th year cohort will now conclude”***.

This means that teaching and learning for all 6th years is now complete. 6th year students do not need to submit any further work or assignments to their teachers.



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Wellbeing

Access to our school guidance and counselling service remains available to all students and can be accessed through larkinupdates@lcc.cdetsb.ie. Our Guidance Counsellors and Chaplain are available for support. In line with government advice we would like to emphasise the importance of maintaining students' Wellbeing and Mental Health.

You can find links to a range of Wellbeing resources on our school website:

<http://www.larkincommunitycollege.ie/news/article/wellbeing-supports-for-students-and-families>

<http://www.larkincommunitycollege.ie/news/article/information-regarding-the-postponement-of-the-leaving-certificate-2020>

The government have also produced information regarding Wellbeing for Leaving Certificate 2020 students and it can be found here:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/256911-leaving-cert-2020-practical-supports/>

Jigsaw have a wide range of online resources for students and their parents/guardians. They can be found at <https://jigsawonline.ie>

Other very helpful websites and phone numbers are at the bottom of this letter.

End of Year Events for 6th Years

It is really important to note that teachers and students will have the opportunity to say goodbye and thank you to each other over the coming weeks using online platforms they have been using with their teachers. We will be in contact with students to organise this. Our staff are also looking at end of year arrangements with a view to holding a virtual celebration and a series of other options in marking the end of post-primary school for your son/daughter and we look forward to sharing these details with you as soon as we can. We hope to be able to hold a 6th Year Graduation in the school once the Government Guidelines and Restrictions say that that it is safe to do so.

This is not how we thought the wonderful journey we all set out on when you started in Larkin Community College would end. We all miss you and are looking forward to a time, at some point in the future, when we can gather for your Graduation and look back on this time from a better place. We wish to congratulate each of you for how well you have handled all the challenges of these strange times.

We will be in with contact with you again with additional information and further clarification as we receive it.

We hope that you and your loved ones are all safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Usher



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Spunout	086 1800 280	HSE	1850 24 1850
Childline	1800 666 666	Samaritans	116 123
Jigsaw (Online chat facility)	(01) 6583070 & jigsaw.ie	AWARE	1800 804 848
Teen-Line	1800 833 634	Barnardos	01 473 2110
Pieta House	1800 247 247	Rape Crisis Centre	1800 778 888
Teen Counselling	(01) 836 0011	ALONE	0818 222 024