



THE
KING'S
HOSPITAL
SCHOOL

Form 3 Junior Certificate update 19-2-21

Dear Student, Parent & Guardian

The Minister for Education, Norma Foley, has issued a [statement](#) setting out the broad parameters of arrangements for this year's Leaving Certificate examinations, which also included a line about the cancelling of this year's Junior Certificate examinations.

In April of 2020, a decision was also made by the Department of Education to cancel the Junior Certificate and schools were instead given flexibility to assess students in order to produce a school certificate of achievement and recognition.

On foot of this 2020 announcement, we determined that students would take exam-style assessments at the end of May (remotely) and those results along with other exams taken during Form 3, CBA's, practical work and assessments, would be collated to produce a school certificate of achievement and recognition. The Junior Cert Classes of 2020 were presented with their Junior Cycle Certificates by the Headmaster, last October, at a socially distant ceremony in Chapel.

We plan to run a similar programme this year, being mindful of our young people's mental health and well-being, but also taking in consideration the importance and relevance of the Junior Cycle Framework as the building blocks of their secondary education.

The Academic Council will now consider a framework of criteria, which will be used to provide clarity for students on what will make up their certificate of achievement and recognition, to be awarded in September. This will be issued to students in the next few weeks, so they are aware of what format their May exam-style assessments will take.

In the meantime, students are encouraged to remain focused on; finishing their curriculum, continuing with their revision plan, and trying their best in the 2nd week of timed-assessments, beginning February 22nd.

Timed Assessment Timetable reminder:

	Time	Week 2 – Feb 22nd
Monday -	2:30pm	Maths
Tuesday	2:30pm	French/Spanish/German
Wednesday	12:30pm	Block B
Thursday	2:30pm	Science
Friday	2:30pm	Religious Education

We do appreciate that not all students, for differing reasons, will be in a position to complete the assessments at the allotted time; so please do contact your subject teacher to make other arrangements that work with your personal circumstances and family dynamic.

The Academic Council will take into account the aggregate in-school learning time that has been lost due to the pandemic, during Form 2 & 3, when they meet to consider the TY Programme for the 2021/22 Academic Year.

As directed by the DES, the summer term will end a week early, on May 28th, to facilitate the Accredited Grades system by schools, for the Leaving Certificate.

A general school email is being sent to all students and parents today.

Please do continue to engage with all your teachers, as well as the performing arts and fitness activities. There is also plenty of well-being support available to you through the [well-being pathway](#), if you feel at all overwhelmed or anxious.

Yours

Siobhán Daly

Deputy Head Academic