



09<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## School Re-Opening, January 2021

Good morning all,

I think it is fair to say we all will happily say "adios" to 2020.

My thanks to all of you for your ongoing cooperation and support since Covid-19 forced all of us to do things differently – for the moment anyhow.

One week at a time, that is all we can do.

### 1. Extension of Christmas Holidays

The Minister for Education Norma Foley announced last week that the school Christmas holidays would be extended by three days, and that it was envisaged that schools would be in a position to reopen on Monday, 11 January.

### 2. School Re-Opening, January 2021

In light of the government decision yesterday to operate **online classes** for all students from the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 the following guidelines apply:

- Teachers will work with their classes remotely on **TEAMS** until the end of January.
- Teachers/students will **follow their timetabled classes**.
- Teachers will host **live classes** where possible, or in exceptional circumstances only alternatively provide pre-recorded classes, that can be completed during the time that the class would usually take place. The range of approaches allows the different circumstances of the teachers/students to be taken into account.
- Any student experiencing difficulty logging on to Teams or other IT issues, should **contact the teacher in question immediately** using their school email account.
- Teachers will take a **roll call** at the beginning of each class.
- Teachers will give **work**, correct work, and give guidance and direction to examination classes.
- School will be open on **Saturday** from 11-1 pm for teachers/students to **collect books/equipment**. Please report to Ms Cummin's office

### 3. Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle Mock Examinations 2021

We are postponing the mock examinations until further clarity comes from the DES re return to school and re the format of the 2021 State Examinations.

#### **4. Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle Examinations 2021 – Important Updates**

The Department of Education has now uploaded an updated version of the publication 'Assessment Arrangements for Junior and Leaving Certificate 2021' onto the gov.ie website at

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7acad-reopening-our-post-primary-schools/>. This updated

version includes clarifications in relation to the following Leaving Certificate subjects:

Agricultural Science, Chemistry, Economics, English (Higher Level), Geography and Mathematics. The clarifications take account of comments received from key stakeholders and have been arrived at through discussion between the Department of Education, the State Examinations Commission and the National Council for Curriculum Assessment.

In addition, the State Examinations Commission has uploaded Circular S64/20, 'Exceptional arrangements for the completion and authentication of Coursework 2021 due to COVID-19'.

This circular provides additional information in relation to exceptional arrangements for the completion and authentication of coursework for 2021 that have been put in place due to the ongoing, unprecedented circumstances associated with COVID-19. It can be found at

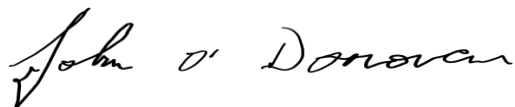
<https://www.examinations.ie/misc-doc/BI-EX-33909957.pdf>

School management should ensure all relevant teaching staff are appraised of these important documents.

Have a great New Year and Stay Safe.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



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John O' Donovan

