



Scoil Dara
Church Street
Kilcock

9th March 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to commend our third year students who, with the support of their families, have continued to engage with their on-line learning, attending live classes, managing assignments, collaborating and co-operating with their teachers and participating positively with all learning opportunities.

Throughout this challenging period of extended remote learning, teachers, tutors and the Year Head Ms. O'Loughlin have acknowledged that students have shown tremendous resilience and commitment to their learning. We fully appreciate that families have negotiated significant challenges during this time of remote learning such as, Wi-Fi provision and quality, demand for access-devices, our homes as centres for work, remote schooling and living.

Education authorities have confirmed that the Junior Cert exams, scheduled for June, will now not go ahead. The current public health concerns indicate that it will not be possible to hold the Junior Cert exams alongside the Leaving Cert at that time.

Education partners and stakeholders are also cogently aware of the significant transition-point between the Junior Cycle and the Senior Cycle usually signalled by the Junior Certificate exams. The DES have recommended that all schools design and provide alternative assessment arrangements for their third years in the Summer term of 2021, reflecting on the measures introduced in 2020. For third year students and their families it is important to recognise and celebrate their progress and attainment in the course of the Junior Cycle. This will result in a school-based assessment report at the end of the current academic year as well as a Certificate of Completion which the States Examination Commission have undertaken to issue to all candidates.

In keeping with the JC Programme itself students will be assessed through a range of lenses including school based written assessments, CBA outcomes, and on-going assessment measures. As subject departments finalise their assessment strategies for the third-year cohort, these details will be shared with and explained to students.

We encourage all third years to continue to attend live classes and address assignments in a timely and pro-active way. Continue to work with your peers and teachers in a positive and practical manner, keeping in mind that opportunities for learning and skill development continue in this remote-schooling environment. We look forward with hope to the return of all students to the school building and their classrooms, once the Government decides that it is safe and wise to take that step.

With sincere thanks,

Carolyn O'Loughlin

Year Head

David Mc Cormack

Principal