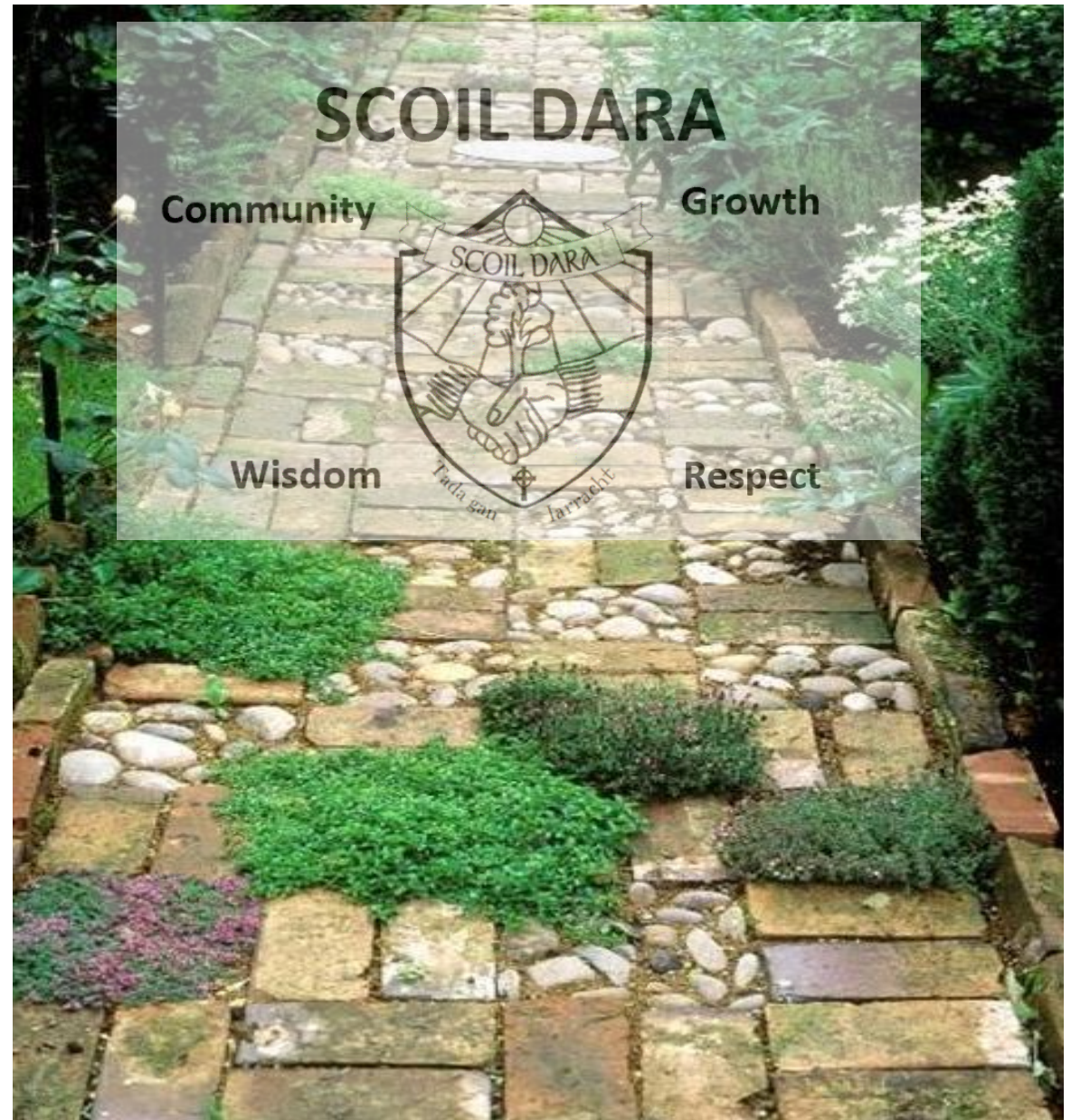


GUIDE TO SEC LC PATHWAY 2021: PARENTS AND STUDENTS

SCOIL DARA



ROADMAP TO LC 2021

- **The pathway to the Leaving Certificate this year consists of 2 separate processes:**
- Traditional LC - featuring June Exams and assessment inclusive of orals, coursework and a range of practicals (awaiting further clarification on those that may not go ahead)
- SEC Accredited Grades Process – School based estimated grades forwarded to the SEC moderation process (new algorithm) and accredited grade awarded.

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION- SEC ACCREDITED GRADES WILL BE PROVIDED:

- In addition to Examinations: As far as possible, students will be provided with SEC Accredited Grades for all subjects for which they are entered for in the Leaving Certificate 2021 – provided that adequate evidence is available on which to base an SEC Accredited Grade.
- To students who are unable to sit the LC examination at the scheduled time: Due to certified medical reasons and/or verifiable COVID-19 related self-isolation/movement restrictions.
- When it is not possible to take the examinations – It may not be possible to run the examination in one or more of the designated centres because of COVID-19 related restrictions. In such cases, students will instead rely on an SEC Accredited Grade.
 - There will be no opportunity to sit the 2021 examination at a later date.

STATE EXAMS COMMISSION : SEC CANDIDATE PORTAL

- The SEC's Candidate Portal (on-line platform) will open in the week of the 8th March and students are required to register there and indicate their choices.
- There will be a review period late April/early May for any amendments to a candidate entry to be recorded
- Candidates will be required to confirm their choices

LCA

- LCA written exams are scheduled to start on 9th June and the timetable is now published
- Previous adjustments outlined in Assessment Arrangements for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate Examinations 2021 (August/updated December 2020)
- The revised arrangements take account of the modular nature of the LCA and the challenges to engagement during the period of remote learning.
- Guidance will be provided on the detailed arrangements for LCA examinations from SEC
- The Accredited Grades process recognises student performance in all aspects of the subject curriculum - oral, practical coursework components and tasks
- The LCA team will go through all module related details as they are shared with us

TRADITIONAL LEAVING CERTIFICATE

- Examinations from June 9th – Timetable published by SEC
- Assessment arrangements for Leaving Certificate Examinations 2021: Subject Exam Papers have been adjusted in light of the disruption to in-class facilitation and support (Dec 2020)
- The Department's Guide to State Examinations document released last Thursday indicated that further adjustments will be made to the papers and in most cases this will mean reducing the numbers of questions students are required to answer, though the duration of the examination will remain the same
- Only in this model students are facilitated to participate in oral and coursework
- Measures are being developed to ensure the safe and fair operation of orals and practicals - given disruption to in-class learning/support
- Registration via the Student Portal - around 8th March (recommended)

ACCREDITED GRADES

- All students will be assigned an Accredited Grade by the SEC
- Process:
 - Estimated mark by teacher
 - Subject alignment within school
 - Oversight by school
 - Submission of data to SEC
 - SEC's National standardisation process (including data available from state examinations)
 - Accredited Grade Awarded
- The Accredited Grades process recognises student performance in all aspects of the subject curriculum - oral, practical coursework components and tasks
- Process for subjects undertaken outside school to be clarified

KEY FEATURES

- Recognition of student achievement (on-going to May)
- Reflection of learning (on-going to May)
- Continuity of learning - during period of return to class-based engagement
- Consistency of approach – SEC guidance to all schools
- Safeguards for role of teacher:

SEC stipulates that no approaches should be made to teachers by any parties with regard school estimated marks as part of the Accredited Grades system



ESTIMATED GRADES PROCESS

- SEC guidelines instructing the process
- Based on evidence over two years (Senior Cycle)
- Featuring formative/summative assessment review of all relevant (examinable) components of a subject curriculum
- Current additional testing in line with established model

FINAL AWARD – LC RESULTS

- Where students select involvement in both systems their LC Results will record the highest grades achieved across both processes (Accredited/Exam)
- Involvement in both processes affords the best opportunity for optimum outcome - best of both worlds – without representing any additional work-load than is associated with Senior Cycle course completion
- The recommendation is that students give themselves the best opportunity to secure that optimum outcome – sign up for the exam process via the Portal

ORALS: IRISH AND MFL

- The SEC Candidate Portal will open in the week of March 8th. Students required to indicate their intention to undertake the LC examinations inclusive of all components – Orals, performance practicals and other coursework
- Orals will take place in-school but outside class-contact time during the period 26th March to 15th April
- No on-site assessment or evaluation - Orals will be conducted by qualified personal
- Digital/electronic recordings sent to SEC, assessed by the SEC

PRACTICALS/COURSEWORK

- New dates (extensions) for completion will issue from the SEC soon
- Subject teachers will go through the new requirements and timelines where relevant –
- The proportion of the marks for the written examination will remain unchanged

COURSEWORK CONTD.

- Revised (extended) dates for submission of course work - such as the GI, the History RSR, the LCVP portfolio will be available shortly
- Practical skills tests (day practicals) in Construction studies and Engineering will not go ahead. In these subjects the proportion of marks normally associated with these components will be transferred over to the project component.
- It is hoped and planning is progressed to hold the Music practical performance outside school time.

SEC – STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

- Align estimated marks with national / JC data
- Apply national standardisation measures – process of arrival at accredited grade
- Assign Accredited Grade
- LC /LCA Results – will issue as close to traditional issue date as possible
- Best of Leaving Certificate/Accredited Grade per subject listed
- Distinct appeal processes will be developed for the process

FOR STUDENTS TO CONSIDER

- Recommendation that all students sign up for 2 processes – optimum outcome
- Commit to your engagement and preparation over the coming term – do your best
- Take on board the formative feedback of your teachers – apply the improvement tips and guidance being given
- Talk to us - the team around you – about concerns you have or support you need. We will do our best for you
- Be mindful that we are now involved in an on-going process toward the award of the LC. Your teachers and the team of staff are here to support you in achieving the optimum outcome, based on your application and work. You have been through a very challenging experience and are still going through that challenge – you have shown immense resilience and strength. Be assured that those planning this model have your best interests at heart and that you will progress beyond this.
- We ask that you respect the fact that teachers are not in a position to address the issue of the estimated grade with you only the process. And that process is outlined here **Remember this process is not yet over -**

Update in relation to the arrangements for the delivery of the Leaving Certificate examinations: 04/03/2021

The purpose of this update is to provide further information under the following headings for the 2021 Leaving Certificate examinations:

1. Coursework Completion dates
2. Orals, Practicals and Music Practical Performance Test
3. Candidate Entries and Candidate Self Service Portal

REVISED SUBMISSION DATES: LC COURSEWORK

Coursework Leaving Certificate 2021	Category	Completion Date	Submission/Marking arrangements
Home Economics	1	Completed	Already submitted and marked.
LCVP Portfolio of Coursework	1	March 12	To facilitate timely marking of this subject, return by post to SEC immediately following the completion date of March 12
Economics#	1	March 15	Retained in school. Printed and returned to SEC together with the written script in June.
Design and Communication Graphics	2	March 19	Return by post to the SEC during week ending 26 March.
Physical Education – Physical Activity Project	2	March 22	Projects returned to SEC via School Portal during week beginning April 12.
History	1	April 23	Retained in school. Returned to SEC together with the written script in June
Geography	1	April 23	Retained in school. Returned to SEC together with the written script in June
Religious Education	1	April 23	Retained in school. Returned to SEC together with the written script in June

Coursework Leaving Certificate 2021	Category	Completion Date	Submission/Marking arrangements
Agricultural Science#	1	April 23	Retained in school. Printed and returned to SEC together with the written script in June
Engineering (project)	2	May 7	Retained in schools for marking
Politics and Society#	1	May 7	Retained in school. Printed and returned to SEC together with the written script in June
Art	2	May 20	Retained in schools for marking
Technology	2	May 27	Retained in schools for marking
Computer Science	2	May 27	Projects returned to SEC via the School Portal immediately following the completion date of May 27
Construction Studies (project)	2	May 28	Retained in schools for marking
Home Economics (Textile Studies Elective)	2	May 28	Retained in schools for marking

*The SEC will issue further guidance to schools on the requirements for each subject prior to the closing date(s) for submission.

Practical coursework in these subjects must be returned in hard copy together with the written script and not through the School Portal as previously notified.

Covid Related Interruptions to Learning (Not related to closure of Schools Buildings).

The arrangements in Circular S64/20 due to interruptions to learning related to COVID 19 still stand and will remain in place now that schools have reopened. School authorities continue to have

COURSEWORK, ORALS AND PRACTICALS

- Oral recordings will take place between 26 March and 15 April.
- The Practical Performance Test in Music is planned to take place in the second week of the Easter holiday. The tests will be conducted by examiners appointed by the SEC.
- It will not be possible to proceed with the day-practical examinations in Construction Studies and Engineering given public health considerations.
- Candidates who sit the examinations in these subjects will be resulted on the written and practical coursework components with the marks for the practical skills tests reallocated to the practical coursework.

CANDIDATE PORTAL

- The Candidate Self Service Portal (CSSP) will open for this purpose on **Wednesday 10 March at 12 noon and will remain open until 6 pm on Tuesday 16 March**
- Only **subjects** which candidates have been **studying in schools** will be displayed on the portal.
- Candidates/students will be **able to add** any subjects that they are studying **outside of school**.
- Candidates will also be able to indicate whether they **want to take the examinations, or to receive SEC Accredited Grades, or both**.
- Further details concerning arrangements for students studying subjects out of school will be available shortly. It should be noted that, students will need to be able to provide substantial evidence of their learning to be eligible for consideration for Accredited Grades.
- Candidates will have a further opportunity at the end of April/early May to confirm their levels in each subject.

PORTAL : END OF APRIL / EARLY MAY

- Candidates will have a further opportunity at the end of April/early May to confirm their levels in each subject.
- At that time, candidates can also withdraw their intention to take the written examination

but

- they **will not** be able to indicate their intention to sit examinations after the 16 March 2021

IMPORTANT TO NOTE

- The level selected by candidates at the end of April/early May will represent their final decision when it comes to the level – Higher, Ordinary or Foundation – in which they will receive their **accredited grade** in each subject.
- Candidates will not be permitted to change levels for the purpose of the accredited grades process after that time.
- Candidates opting to sit the examinations will be permitted to change their levels in respect of the written examinations on the day of the examination, as they are in a normal year.
- The best outcome will be reported as their LC result

ACCESSING THE CANDIDATE PORTAL

- Before using the Candidate Portal for the first time, candidates will be asked to create their own account and will need their examination number for this process.
- Students have received a (self-adhesive) labels, showing each **Candidate's Name, Date of Birth and Examination Number** from their schools.
- To access the portal candidates will need their **Personal Identification Number (PIN)** as part of the verification process. For most candidates this will be the first four digits of their PPSN.
- Do you know your PPSN?

CONTACT DETAILS

- Year Head – Mr. Jim Rattigan jimrattigan@scoildara.ie
- Career and Guidance Team: Ms. Theresa Payne theresapayne@scoildara.ie
Ms. Orla Brophy orlabrophy@scoildara.ie
- SEN Coordinator: Ms. Clare Kenny clarekenny@scoildara.ie
- Deputy Principals: Ms. Clodagh Ward clodaghward@scoildara.ie
Ms. Glenda Dowling glendadowling@scoildara.ie
Mr. Ronan Mc Cabe ronanmccabe@scoildara.ie