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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Once again, I hope all in our Marist community are well today. Wednesday's letter (sent to your email account) provided updates on how we as a College are managing the education of your child in the weeks ahead. Can I ask that in working together that you as parents take responsibility with your child to ensure that work is returned in good time to teachers. The vast majority of students have responded excellently to this new system of remote learning, but a small cohort of 3<sup>rd</sup> Year students are not engaging properly. I will be in touch directly with the parents of these students on this issue from Monday.

Yesterday, following the Minister for Education's announcement, the State Exams Commission (SEC) have provided a press release with the initial details of the new arrangements for this year's Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations. I have attached the press release to the bottom of this letter. While I would urge you to read the **detail** of the release, some of the key points can be summarised as follows. The SEC have confirmed:

- The cancellation of the oral and practical performance tests of the Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle examinations, which had been scheduled to take place in the coming fortnight and to award full marks to candidates due to take these tests.
- Project work and coursework across a number of subjects which were scheduled to be completed in March and April will have an extended completion time up to the 15th May.

The SEC explain the rationale for these decisions within the body of the press release.

### **What does today's announcement mean for Marist students studying for the **Junior Certificate**?**

1. The practical performance component of Music at Junior Certificate will not be assessed this year. Candidates at all levels will receive full marks in this component of the paper. This amounts to 25% of the total mark in Music at both Higher and Ordinary level.
2. The practical component of Home Economics at Junior Certificate will not be assessed this year. Candidates at all levels will receive full marks in this component of the paper. This amounts to 50% of the total mark at both Higher and Ordinary level.
3. All Junior Certificate candidates have returned their subjects and levels form to the SEC earlier in the year. **The SEC have made it clear that candidates who have stated on this form their decision to sit Music or Home Economics at Ordinary level will not be**

**allowed to sit the paper at Higher level. This is a decision beyond the control of the College.**

4. Candidates should continue to prepare coursework in all other relevant subjects. At the present time the SEC have indicated they fully intend running the written Junior Certificate exams commencing on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Today's announcement gives students an opportunity to aim for high grades in these subjects if lots of work is now put into the written papers. It is vital that we as teachers *and* you as parents impress upon your child that they cannot be complacent in any of these subjects and that maximum effort should be given to the rest of their coursework.**

Finally, may I remind you that the homepage of our college website ([www.maristdundalk.ie](http://www.maristdundalk.ie)) continues to be updated with support information.

*Kindest regards,*

*Alan Craven*

*Principal*

***Prayer to Mary***

*O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, and we are sure you will provide so that we may return to joy after this time of trial.*

*(Adapted from Pope Francis's Prayer to Mary at the time of this coronavirus).*

**For further information please contact our Senior Management Team:**

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