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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 and 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 6<sup>th</sup> Year students are not engaging properly. I will be in touch directly with the parents of these students on this issue on 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. 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 **Leaving Certificate**?**

1. The Irish oral component of the Leaving Certificate will not be assessed this year. Candidates at all levels will receive full marks in this component of the paper. This amounts to 40% of the total mark in Irish and now provides an excellent opportunity for students to achieve a high grade in this subject at every level.
2. The French and German oral component of the Leaving 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 at Higher level and 20% of the total mark at Ordinary level with both subjects. Again, it is vital that students continue to commit maximum effort to their European languages.

3. The practical performance component of Music at Leaving Certificate will also not be assessed. Candidates at all levels will receive full marks in this component of the paper. This amounts to 50% of the total mark in Music at both Higher and Ordinary level.
4. All Leaving Certificate candidates have completed and returned their form to the SEC showing the levels they have chosen at each subject. **The SEC have made it clear that candidates will not be permitted to move from Ordinary level to Higher level (or from Foundation to Ordinary level in Irish). This is a decision beyond the control of the College.**
5. Students should continue to prepare for the practical examinations scheduled in other relevant subjects. Students taking LCVP and LCA examinations in May should continue to prepare for these. At the present time the SEC fully intend running the written Leaving Certificate exams commencing on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Yesterday'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, 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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