



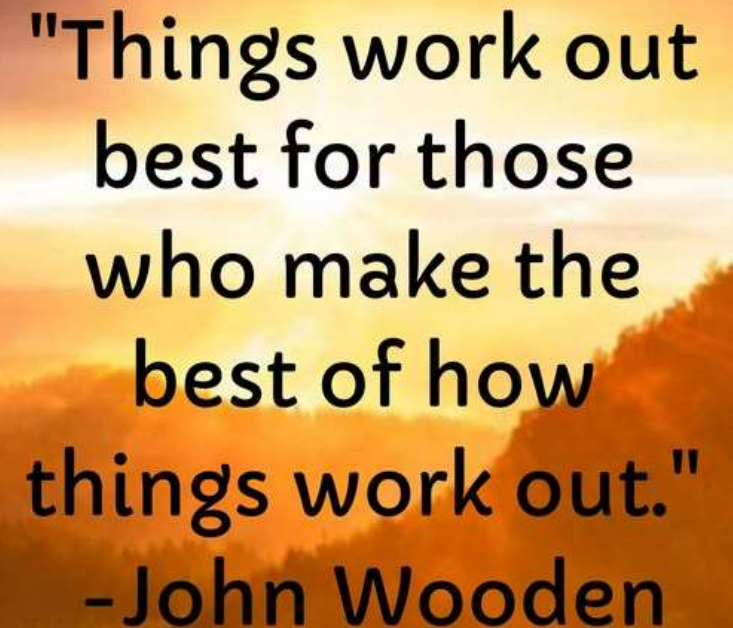
LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS 2021

MEETING WITH PARENTS / GUARDIANS OF LC AND LCA STUDENTS

9TH MARCH 2021

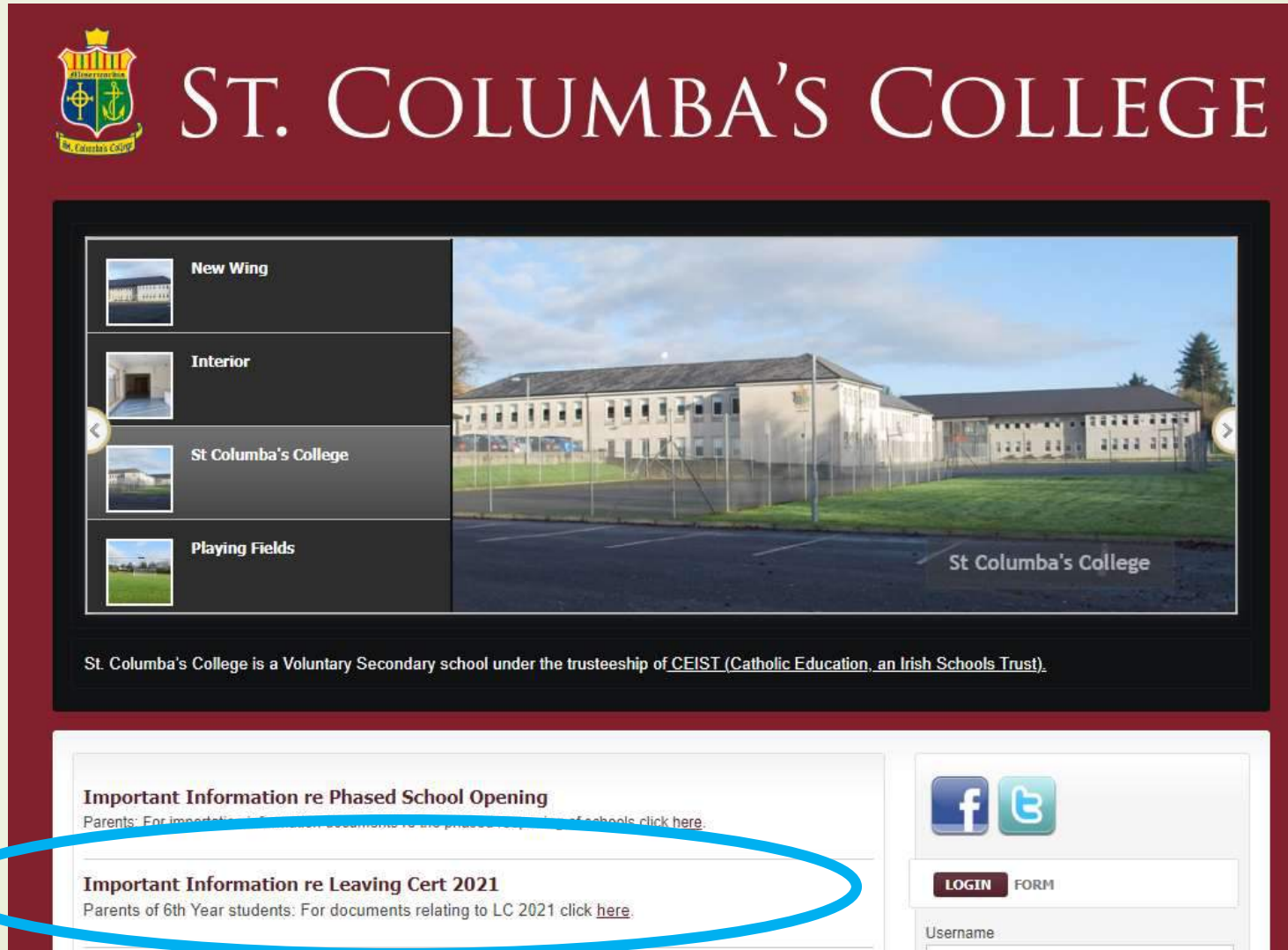
A Normal and Calm Atmosphere


- We hope that all is as good as can be expected for you and your families during these difficult times
- We want the experience for your son/daughter to be as normal as possible as their teachers continue to complete courses in preparation for the written examinations
- We always try to do things in a calm manner in our school
- We will continue to work in partnership with students and parents
- We are available to answer any queries



**"Things work out best for those who make the best of how things work out."
-John Wooden**

Information updates on our website



 **ST. COLUMBA'S COLLEGE**



New Wing
Interior
St Columba's College
Playing Fields

St Columba's College

St. Columba's College is a Voluntary Secondary school under the trusteeship of CEIST (Catholic Education, an Irish Schools Trust).

Important Information re Phased School Opening
Parents: For important information and documents re the phasing of schools click [here](#).

Important Information re Leaving Cert 2021
Parents of 6th Year students: For documents relating to LC 2021 click [here](#).

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Information updates on our website



ST. COLUMBA'S COLLEGE

You are here: [NEWS](#) > [Leaving Cert 2021](#)

[Leaving Cert 2021](#)

Important information documents for parents relating to Leaving Certificate 2021 will be posted below.

[Letter to Parents of 6th Years - Feb 21](#)

[Leaving Certificate Timetable 2021](#)

[Leaving Certificate Applied Timetable 2021](#)

[Letter to Schools 24th February 2021](#)

[Guide to State Examinations and Accredited Grades - 28 Feb 2021](#)

[SEC Circular 07/21 - Important information re arrangements for LC 2021](#)

[SEC Circular 08/21 - Important information regarding LCVP 2021](#)

[State Examinations and Accredited Grades - Arrangements for Leaving Certificate Applied 2021](#)

[Further information regarding Music Practical Exam 2021 - 8th March](#)



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- [Create an account](#)

CALENDAR

Important Documents



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

A Guide to State Examinations and Accredited Grades for Leaving Certificate 2021



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission
Corr na Madadh, Baile Átha Luain, Co. na hIarmhí
Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath. N37TP65

S07/21

IMPORTANT INFORMATION IN RELATION TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS 2021

**TO THE BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT/AUTHORITIES OF POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND OTHER
ENTITIES RECOGNISED BY THE SEC TO HOLD THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS**

The purpose of this circular is to provide an update in relation to the arrangements for the delivery of the Leaving Certificate examinations following the announcement by the Government on Wednesday 17th February. Details of this announcement have been set out in the Department of Education's Letter to Schools dated 24 February and the recently published Guide to State Examinations and Accredited Grades for Leaving Certificate 2021 available [here](#). The Government announcement included that the Junior Cycle examinations will not run in 2021. Schools will be

State Examinations and Accredited Grades - Arrangements for Leaving Certificate Applied 2021

Important Documents

State Examinations and Accredited Grades – Leaving Certificate 2021

Information for students, parents and guardians
See [gov.ie/leavingcertificate](https://www.gov.ie/leavingcertificate) for more detailed information

What candidates need to know

- You must **register** on the SEC candidate portal for examinations **and/or** SEC Accredited Grades
- You will be required to **log on again** at the end of **April/early May** to confirm your levels in each subject
- Continue to **engage** with **teaching, learning and assessment**
- There are **no fees** to pay for examinations or for SEC Accredited Grades
- If you opt for both you will have your **better grades in each subject** reflected in your results.



Key dates

- The **SEC Candidate Portal** will open on **10 March at 12 noon** and close on **16 March at 6pm**
- **LC Oral** examinations: **26 March to 15 April**
- Portal reopens **April/May** to confirm levels (TBC)
- **LC Applied orals**: **3 May to 12 May**
- **LCA practical performance test**: **17 May to 21 May**.
- **LCA practical coursework interview**: week beginning **8 June**
- **Written exams**: **9 June to 29 June**



SEC Accredited Grades

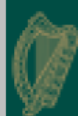
- These grades will be generated using the **estimated percentage marks** provided by schools
- Teacher **estimations** will be subject to **in-school alignment and oversight**
- After the **national standardisation process**, marks will be converted into **SEC Accredited Grades**
- Grades will be expressed in the **format H1/O1** etc.
- Parents/Guardians and students **must not contact** a teacher or other member of staff to discuss or try to influence the decision making process relating to the marks.

Results

- On **results day**, you will get the **better of the two** results if you opted for both
- Shortly after, you will receive the **outcomes** of your Accredited Grades and/or examinations **at the same time**
- The final result (on final certificate) credited will be the **better of the two results** if you sit the examinations.



Important Documents



gov.ie

Leaving Certificate Candidate Self Service Portal 2021 Before You Start Guide

The Candidate Self Service Portal (CSSP) is a service provided by the State Examinations Commission (SEC) and the Department of Education for 6th year candidates entered for the 2021 Leaving Certificate.

Information will be provided in due course to schools about Year 1 Leaving Certificate Applied candidates (5th years). They are not included on the portal as this is not the final year of the programme and their information will be gathered directly from their school.

The Candidate portal will open at 12 Noon on Wednesday 10 March and close at 6 pm on Tuesday 16 March. *We are expecting a lot of traffic on this Portal over the coming week, so please be patient when completing the steps. You will have every opportunity to complete this important process.*

A Step-By-Step Guide to the process of creating your account and selecting your options is presented



Options for Leaving Certificate 2021

Your son/daughter may:

➤ **Opt to receive an SEC-Accredited Grade**

and/or

➤ **Opt to sit a Leaving Certificate examination**



Leaving Certificate Written Examinations 2021

- Based on current public health advice available, the planned written Leaving Certificate examinations can proceed in June
- Written Examinations will commence on 9th June
- The timetable is available on the SEC website and on the college website
- There will be no fees for the 2021 Leaving Certificate examinations or for SEC Accredited Grades
- No other contingency examinations in 2021
- Students who sit the examinations will need to complete orals and coursework

SEC Accredited Grades

- However, students have experienced a significant loss of face-to-face teaching and learning
- Leaving Certificate students have had uneven access to teaching and learning opportunities as they prepare for their examinations
- The Minister has determined that it would be unfair to have students rely entirely on the conventional Leaving Certificate process as the sole means of assessment
- SEC will operate a system of 'SEC-Accredited Grades' in addition to conventional examinations
- **SEC Accredited Grades is a parallel process**
- Students who opt for SEC-Accredited Grades will need to engage with orals and coursework



Options open to LC students?

Can a student sit the examinations in some subjects (including additional components) and opt to receive an SEC Accredited Grades in others?

Yes. The decision is made on a subject by subject basis.

Can a student sit the examinations (including additional components) in all subjects and also opt to receive SEC Accredited Grades in all subjects?

Yes. If student opts for both they will have their better grade (conventional Leaving Certificate grade or SEC Accredited Grade) in each subject reflected in their results.

What will remain normal for students?

- Teachers will continue to deliver the syllabus for the remainder of the school year
 - **Teachers will ensure that the curriculum is completed for all students**
 - **Teachers will conduct class tests as part of their normal teaching methods, when and where they feel it is appropriate.**
- Students will have classes as normal until 28th May
- **They will be assessed for their project work in both forms of assessment**
- Mock Examinations will not be conducted to help determine the estimated percentage mark for the SEC Accredited Grade process

Revised Dates for LC Coursework – S07/21

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

Revised Dates for LCA Coursework/Exams

Appendix 1: 2021 arrangements for all subjects with additional components

	Examination arrangements for 2021
Gaeilge Chumarsáideach	Oral: 3 -12 May 2021 Written : 10 June 2021
English & Communications	Oral: 3 -12 May 2021 Written :9 June 2021
Modern Foreign Languages: French; German; Spanish; Italian	Oral: 3 -12 May 2021 Written :10 June 2021
Sign Language	10 June 2021 * See Note on Published Timetable 2021.



Positive Changes to the Oral Examinations

- **Will be conducted in our school**
- **Will take place during Easter – no erosion of tuition time**
- **Will be face-to-face in the school in line with Public Health advice**
- **Teachers will conduct the orals and record the interview**
- **Work (digital record) will be sent to the SEC and marked by the SEC**
- **If students do not do the orals/coursework, they can still sit the written examinations but they will forfeit the marks for the orals or practical component**



Positive Changes to the Written Examinations

- Adjustments have already been made to the written examinations
- In addition to these, further adjustments will be made to the written papers
- Further subject-by-subject guidance in relation to these adjustments will be issued by the SEC in the week of 22 March
- In the majority of cases these adjustments will involve reducing the number of questions that students will be required to answer
- The time available to complete each written examination will remain the same as set out in the published timetable, **thus providing students with additional time to read the paper and answer the required number of questions**



SEC-Accredited Grades

There are two main phases in the process of arriving at an SEC Accredited Grade:

- **A school-based phase:** carried out by the school
 - An Estimated mark to be awarded to a student in respect of his expected performance in an examination in that particular subject
- **A national standardisation phase:** carried out by the SEC
 - this includes, but is not necessarily limited to, national data on past Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle examination performance (pre-2020)

The combination of these data sets through a process of national standardisation will determine the grade to be awarded to each student in each subject, thereby resulting in an SEC Accredited Grade being awarded.

Estimated Marks

There are four main school-based steps in arriving at an Estimated Mark:

- Estimated Mark based on teacher professional judgement
- School alignment of marks for a subject through a subject alignment group
- Oversight of the alignment process by the school principal – guidelines to be issued
- Transmission of the marks to the SEC for national standardisation.

ALL candidates will be awarded an estimated mark.

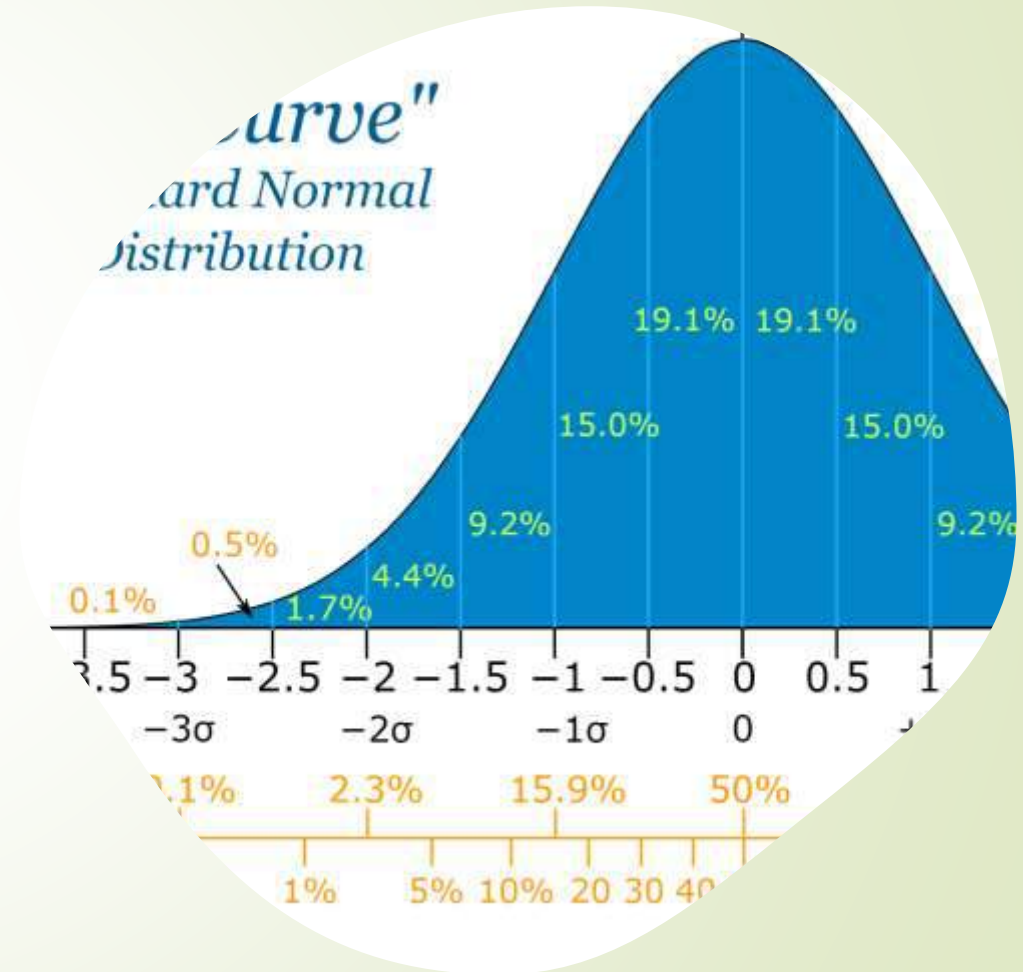
An Estimated Mark becomes an Accredited Grade when the SEC perform their alignment process.

What Range of Evidence will the teacher consider?

- Use of Formative and Summative assessments
 - Assignments, quizzes, aural work, oral work, observations of learning in class
 - Tests and assessment activities undertaken over the student's two years of study
 - How the student engages in class
- Teachers will make "on-balance" judgements, not focusing on occasional dips/peaks in performance
- Professional judgement of the teacher
- What is not considered:
 - Student work habits and effort, homework, participation, attendance and punctuality - only your achievement in the subject
 - Mocks data must not be used - Schools can do mocks but this data will not be used to award an estimated mark

Caution on Accredited Grades

The SEC standardisation process will bring the data sets into alignment with each other and will be used to ensure the SEC Accredited Grades reflect standards that are aligned across schools and with a common national standard.





Next – The Student Portal

- The Candidate Self Service Portal (CSSP) will open for this purpose on Wednesday 10 March at 12 noon
- Please read the **‘Leaving Certificate Candidate Self Service Portal 2021 Before You Start Guide’**
- The portal will remain open until 6 pm on Tuesday 16 March
- Details of the students’ choices will be provided to each school
- The portal will re-open in late April/early May to enable candidates to review their choices
- The final confirmed candidate details will be provided to schools in advance of the in-school process

The Student Portal

Leaving Certificate Candidates	<p>STEP 1 Register to create your account</p> <p>STEP 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Confirm your Personal DetailsConfirm your Subjects and LevelsOpt for Accredited Grades and/or Examinations subject by subject <p>You also need to indicate if you wish to sit any of your examinations through Irish. Higher Level Music Candidates need to choose their Elective</p>
Leaving Certificate Applied Candidates (Year 2 only)	<p>STEP 1 Register to create your account</p> <p>STEP 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Confirm your Personal DetailsOpt for Accredited Grades and/or Examinations for the entire programme

2021 Leaving Certificate Subjects
2021 Ráiteas ar Torthaí Sealadacha

Scrúduimhir / Examination Number:

Withdraw subject	Subject	Level	Choose your option(s)	Language Version of Examination Paper required
<input type="checkbox"/>	IRISH	Ordinary Level <input type="text"/>	Accredited Grade <input type="checkbox"/> Sit Examination <input type="checkbox"/>	

2021 Leaving Certificate Subjects
2021 Ráiteas ar Torthaí Sealadacha

Scrúduimhir / Examination Number:

Withdraw subject	Subject	Level	Choose your option(s)	Language Version of Examination Paper required
<input type="checkbox"/>	IRISH	Ordinary Level <input type="text"/>	Accredited Grade <input type="checkbox"/> Sit Examination <input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	ENGLISH	Ordinary Level <input type="text"/>	Accredited Grade <input type="checkbox"/> Sit Examination <input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	MATHEMATICS	Ordinary Level <input type="text"/>	Accredited Grade <input type="checkbox"/> Sit Examination <input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	HISTORY	Ordinary Level <input type="text"/>	Accredited Grade <input type="checkbox"/> Sit Examination <input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	BIOLOGY	Ordinary Level <input type="text"/>	Accredited Grade <input type="checkbox"/> Sit Examination <input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	ACCOUNTING	Ordinary Level <input type="text"/>	Accredited Grade <input type="checkbox"/> Sit Examination <input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	BUSINESS	Ordinary Level <input type="text"/>	Accredited Grade <input type="checkbox"/> Sit Examination <input type="checkbox"/>	

ADD A SUBJECT

If there are other subjects that you are studying which are not listed above, add them now.

-- Add a Subject --

Confirm: By checking this box, you are confirming your selections above

You will be automatically logged out in **43m 48s**

2021 Leaving Certificate Applied (Year 2)
2021 Ardteistiméireacht Fheidhmeach (Bliain 2)

Scrúduithe / Examination Number:

Receive Accredited Grade

Sit State Examination

Confirm: By checking this box, you are confirming your selections above

You will be automatically logged out in 17m 22s

Check the Confirm box above

Reset timer

Log Out

Support for Students.....

- **Principal and Deputy Principals (Ms. White and Mr. Sweeney) will continue to engage with students and parents/ guardians**
- **Mr. O Donnell (Year Head) will continue to communicate as normal with LC Group**
- **Guidance Counsellors - Ms. Sproule and Ms. Mc Nulty**
- **Religious Education and SPHE teachers**
- **Queries – Email admin@stcolumbasstranorlar.ie or phone (074)9131246**

Exams will come and go....

