

Ms. Miriam Reilly

Meetings Administrator

Corporate Services Department

South Dublin County Council

County Hall

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PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE.

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Dear Ms. Reilly,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Minister for Education, Ms. Norma Foley TD, in relation to the State Examinations 2022.

In recent weeks, the Minister has met with the Advisory Group on State Examinations, which has representatives of students, parents, teachers, school managerial bodies, the further and higher education sector, and the State Examinations Commission. Following on from this meeting, the Minister met with the members of the advisory group on a bilateral basis and also had further engagement with each of them thereafter. The Minister listened carefully to what each of these stakeholders has had to say and examined each of their points.

Following consideration of this matter by Government, the Minister announced the decision to operate an examinations approach for Leaving Certificate in 2022, with significant further adjustments to the examinations; and to provide students with a commitment that the overall results of Leaving Certificate 2022 will not be lower than in 2021.

Further adjustments have been announced to the examination papers, over and above those announced in August 2021, and the detail of these changes have been communicated to schools. These adjustments will mean that candidates: have greater choice in the papers; have less questions to answer; and still have the same amount of time as in a normal year to complete the examination. For example, English - Higher Level Paper 1 and Paper 2. In English Paper 1, candidates will have to answer only half of the usual number of questions in Section 1, Comprehending. In English Paper 2 they will only have to answer on any two instead of on all three sections – a reduction of one third.

This is in addition to previously announced changes, such as the running of the Leaving Certificate Oral Examinations and Music Practical over the first week of the Easter Break.

Timeframes for certain assessment elements of the Leaving Certificate Applied examinations have also been moved out. Schools were also reminded of the flexibilities they have regarding the dates for completion and authentication of examination Coursework.

The Minister has also confirmed that Junior Cycle examinations will take place this summer. Adjustments to the assessment arrangements for Junior Cycle were published in August 2021 and provide for more teaching time in

schools. They include a reduction in the number of Classroom Based Assessments to be completed, the removal of the requirement to complete Assessment Tasks, and adjustments to the requirements in coursework and practical performance tests.

Additionally, the Minister has confirmed the waiving of the fees for the 2022 Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle examinations. Students will not have to pay the fees which would usually be €116 and €109 for the Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle examinations respectively.

The Minister believes that the decision announced will provide Leaving Certificate students of 2022 with an opportunity for their learning and attainment at the end of their post-primary education to be assessed, and will enable them to progress to the next stage of their lives. It also provides the certainty and clarity in this matter that had been requested by schools and parents.

The most current information on all matters relating to Leaving Certificate examinations is available on an ongoing basis at this [link](#).

This includes wellbeing information and supports for students, parents/guardians and school staff.

Also attached is a [link](#) to the State Examinations Commission website for your information.

I trust this information has been of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Derek Newcombe

Private Secretary