



# Blessington Community College:



Naas Road, Blessington, Co. Wicklow

**Web:** [www.blessingtoncc.ie](http://www.blessingtoncc.ie)  
**Email:** [blessingtoncc@kwetb.ie](mailto:blessingtoncc@kwetb.ie)

**Phone:** 045 865170  
**Fax:** 045 865375

4/March/2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and 6th year Students,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 6th year students for their engagement, attendance and cooperation with teachers during this first week back in the school. They have embraced the one hour long lessons and cooperated fully with uniform regulations, hand sanitising, social distancing and have been exceptionally well behaved in school during the week.

Now that we have completed our first full week of face to face in-school engagement; I would like to communicate some important information in relation to Leaving Certificate 2021.

Main points:

- Students have the option to sit the exam, receive SEC Accredited Grades, or both, on a subject by subject basis.
- Students who opt for both will receive the better of the two grades.
- Portal opening at 12 noon on 10th March and closing at 6pm on 16th March - students will have to register, confirm their subject and level entry details and opt for the exam and/or SEC Accredited Grades in each subject.
- No fees payable for either the exam or SEC Accredited Grades.
- Results of both the exams and the SEC Accredited Grades will be available in time for college and further education entry
- SEC Accredited Grades will be provided if there is adequate evidence on which to base an SEC Accredited Grade
- There will be no opportunity to sit the exams at a later date - therefore the advice of the college is to register for both exams and SEC Accredited Grades.
- 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 in the Leaving Certificate examinations in 2021, provided that adequate evidence is available on which to base an SEC Accredited Grade.

To students who are unable to sit the examinations at the scheduled time: For example, some students may be at very high - risk from COVID - 19; some students may be required to self-isolate and/or restrict their movements for all or part of the period of the examinations; or they may have a bereavement or other medically certified illness which prevents them from sitting the examinations.

Having the SEC Accredited Grade will enable the student to receive a grade in such cases. There will be no opportunity to sit the 2021 examinations at a later date.

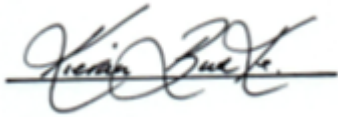
When it is not possible to take the examinations: It may not be possible to run the examinations in one or more examination centres because of COVID -19 related restrictions. In such cases, students will instead rely on an SEC Accredited Grade

- Key features of the SEC Accredited Grade:
  - *Recognition of student achievement* over the two years of the Senior Cycle, student's expected performance in the exam, including written examinations, oral, practical and/or coursework components. Learning during the school closure period of Jan-Feb- Mar 2021 should be taken into account, and (with caveats) learning during the closure in 2020. Learning and outcomes from Mar until 14th May will also be taken into account.
  - *Reflection of learning*: SEC Accredited Grade system recognises that students learn in different ways and they develop a range of knowledge, skills and competences in subjects through the course of their study. It also reflects that school closures have affected students' engagement in different ways; many have adapted well to learning on-line, while others have found it hard to engage or fully access on-line learning.
  - *Continuity in Learning*: with the support of their teachers, students will be able to progress in their learning and work towards completing their course of study.
  - *Safeguards for Teachers' professional judgement*: returning to school to the support of teachers and peers provides an opportunity to support student wellbeing and to discuss future education and career options. However, overtures or approaches by parents/guardians, students and others to, and/or discussions with teachers and/or school management in relation to school estimated marks submitted, as part of the Accredited Grades process are prohibited.
  - *Consistency of approach*: Schools and subject teachers will be supported in taking a consistent approach through the provision of additional detailed guidance in relation to the SEC Accredited Grades system.

Students need to note especially that while in school Public Health regulations must be followed - i.e. correct mask wearing, social distancing, handwashing and sanitising properly, staying out of school if any symptoms are displayed. Individual students must realise the responsibility they have to keep themselves healthy so as not to interfere with their path or the path of any other student towards the Leaving Cert and/or SEC Accredited Grades. We have a responsibility to each other to keep our school Covid-free.

Please note that school closes on May 28th 2021.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kieran Burke', written over a horizontal line.

Kieran Burke (Principal)