



01/05/2020

RE: Arrangements for Assessment of Third Year students May 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Thankfully, we now have some degree of certainty from the Department of Education and Skills (DES) about the Junior Cycle examinations. Over the past few days I have been involved in consultation with ETBI, KWETB, the staff at this school and the Principals of the other schools in Naas, in order to ensure that the arrangements we put into place are fair and representative of student work.

The following outlines how Naas Community College will conduct assessment for Third Year students over the next three weeks, in lieu of the State Examinations

- students are to be assessed in the following manner: 80% of final grade to be an average of marks attained at the Pre Junior Cert exams and Second Year Summer exams. (If a student changed levels; or if a student missed an exam; or in other unusual circumstances, then teachers are to use your professional judgement, and other academic records to determine what the fairest percentage would be)
- The remaining 20% is to be awarded for the successful completion of a project to be submitted by the 22nd May. The DES has stated that any such project should be based around work completed before the 12th March. These projects will be set by the subject departments rather than individual teachers to ensure consistency. Common marking schemes/rubrics will also be provided. Proposed projects will be submitted to the School Principal for approval before publication.
- The timeframe is as follows: May 1st-6th departments set projects; May 7th submit to principal; May 8th publish to students. Students then must submit the final project by 13.20 on the 22nd May. Teachers will have until the 29th May to fill in the reports. Reports will be sent out to parents in June.
- If both CBA's have been done, then they can be used to make up 10% and the project will then be worth 10%. If only one CBA is done, then it will not be permissible and thus the project must remain at 20%
- The reports due on the 29th May, will have no teacher comments or identifier, just a numeric result and the corresponding grade or descriptor.

I appreciate that these arrangement make little allowance for practical examinations and that they are a measure that prevents our students from experiencing the formality of state exams. However, these arrangements introduce a degree of certainty in a confused situation and they also ensure that students will not have the spectre of exams hanging over them all summer.

We are in pretty uncertain times, and it appears that little change will occur to the current restrictions in the short term. In this context, I believe we are best served by bringing the Junior Cycle to a speedy conclusion for our Third Years and allow them to start the next academic year with a clean slate.

The subject departments will take all of this into consideration when they formulate the final assessment task or project. Clear guidelines will be communicated to students from the 8th May and they will then have two weeks to complete the task.

I must point out that the deadline for submission is Friday the 22nd May at 13.20.

The report you will receive in June will have the overall result calculated and represented as either a final grade or descriptor (English, Business, Science, Irish, Visual Art and Modern Foreign Languages will have a descriptor and the rest of the subjects will have a grade). There will also be a section outlining the results of the Short Courses and finally a section outlining the Other Learning Experiences. We will strive to emulate the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement format in this regard. This report will be called the Naas Community College Junior Cycle Achievement Report 2020.

The DES will issue a Junior Cycle Completion Certificate for all students in September. This certificate can be used to access further education and training for any student who elects not to continue to the Leaving Certificate.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the Third Year students of this school. Despite all the uncertainty about the exams there has been a very high level of engagement and participation with teachers in the online classes.

I know there will be a sense of disappointment that you will not get a chance to sit the formal exams, but I urge you to use the final task as a means of showing how much work and preparation you have done.

I will hold an assembly for all Third Years students on Tuesday to answer any student questions that may arise. If parents /guardians would like any further clarification or detail, please email us at naascc@kwetb.ie

Thank you all for your patience and understanding over the last few weeks.

Stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely



Ciarán Keegan

Principal

Naas Community College