

5th May 2020

Dear 3rd Year student/parent.

I hope that you and your families are all keeping well in these challenging times.

As you are aware the Minister for Education & Skills announced that certification for each 3rd Year student this year will involve two elements:

- A State Certificate of completion of Junior Cycle from the Department of Education and Skills. Students will receive a State Certification that they have completed three years of Junior Cycle education in a number of subjects/priority learning units. This certification will be provided by the Department of Education and Skills.
- A school report setting out the learning achievements of students in Junior Cycle. Students will receive a written report on the broad range of learning that they have achieved in each subject, short course and/or priority learning unit at the end of Junior Cycle. This assessment of their learning will be provided by their teachers. Schools will have autonomy in how this assessment is to be arrived at and the format in which the report is provided.

In relation to the school report the guidelines from the Department of Education & Skills state:

“To ensure equity, greater weighting should be given to work that was completed by students in advance of the closure of schools on 12 March 2020. Cognisance may be given to work completed after that date but teachers should have regard to the impact that school closure will have had on students’ ability to engage with further learning after 12 March 2020 and their ability to complete any additional assessment tasks.”

We are conscious of the diverse and complex challenges created by the current national health emergency. We are also aware that despite the wide range of approaches used by teachers to mitigate the effects of the disrupted schooling, the experience of remote learning has not been the same for every student or indeed for every teacher.

In determining the format for 3rd Year assessment the following factors have been considered:

- Some students have/are experiencing family illness and bereavement
- Not all students have sufficient access to devices
- Many students do not have access to reliable internet
- Some students are responsible for younger siblings/grandparents during the day
- Feedback received from our parent/student/staff surveys
- Concern that we do not to add to already existing stress for students and their families
- To continue to engage as many students as possible with teaching and learning until the end of May, in preparation for commencing their 5th Year Programme in the Autumn.

Students will receive a school report which will include grades/descriptors for each subject based on the following:

- 80% - based on Pre-12th March assessment in 3rd Year (*40% Christmas Test & 40% Pre-Exam*)
- 20% - based on an assignment/task/project/activity set and completed in each subject during the last three weeks of May.

(Where students would ordinarily have had a practical or assessment task component for their JC exam teachers may allow the relevant weighting as part of this grade)

P.T.O. →

Principal – Kerry Harkin

Deputy Principal – Sean Costelloe



This combination acknowledges students learning prior to 12th March as well as allowing students the opportunity to demonstrate progress since.

Subject assignments will be scheduled across a three week period in May. In order that students do not experience undue pressure and have time to focus on specific subjects each week, students will not be required to submit work for subjects other than those schedule for that particular week. Teachers will begin to engage with students this week through the Office 365 platform with regard to what is required from them.

Week	Subject 1	Subject 2	Subject 3	Subject 4
Mon 11 th May – Fri 15 th May	Maths	R.E	Science	Option 1
Mon 18 th May – Fri 22 nd May	English	Option 2	Option 3	----
Mon 25 th May – Fri 29 th May	Irish	Option 4	Option 5	----

- Option 1 = The subject you have Monday Period 3 (*Languages/Business*)
- Option 2 = The subject you have Tuesday Period 4 (*Geography/Business*)
- Option 3 = The subject you have Monday Period 4 (*Geography/Business/History*)
- Option 4 = The subject you have Friday Period 4 (*Woodwork/TechGraph/Home Ec./Music/Art/History*)
- Option 5 = The subject you have Monday Period 6 (*Woodwork/TechGraph/Home Ec./Music/Art*)

CBAs (where complete) will also be included on the school report, along with an acknowledgement of other areas of learning such as Wellbeing.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office via office@presmilltown.ie if you have any queries or if we can assist your son/daughter in any way.

The past few weeks have been extremely challenging for all of our students, but in particular those in exam years. We are exceptionally proud of our wonderful 3rd Year students who have shown how determined, adaptable and resilient our young people really are. We miss you all greatly and would love nothing more than to be back in school with you all. We cannot wait to see your smiling faces again in the autumn. Take care of yourselves and of each other.

Kindest regards



Kerry Harkin
Principal