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St Colman's College,
Castlegar,
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Principal
Mr Jimmy Finn

Deputy Principal
Mr. Roy Hession

Assessment of 1st, 2nd and 5th Years in May 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of 1st, 2nd and 5th Year Students,

1st, 2nd and 5th Year students will receive the standard VsWare Report outlining their Learning Achievements for the year.

- 80% of the Grade in each subject will be comprised of the following: Evidence from results received by students in House Tests, Class Tests, Practical Work (where appropriate) during the year. These results will be used to determine the student's average result.
- The final 20% of the Grade in each subject will be made up of an element for an End of Term Test, which will be completed at home and returned to the teacher online, and a portion for online engagement.

House/Class Tests; Mock Exams; Practical Projects	80%
Engagement with Online Learning/End of Year Test	20%

- Within the general constraints of the marking criteria above a certain amount of flexibility/discretion will be given to subject departments and teachers in the allocation of marks to each of the above elements to take account of specific requirements in certain subjects, particularly practical subjects.
- Subject departments and teachers will make known to students, through their Microsoft "Teams", the material that will need to be studied and revised for the End of Year Test.
- In devising the above marking criteria we are taking cognisance of the disrupted learning that students have experienced in 2020, and recognise that some students may be unable to

undertake such additional assessments because of issues arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, the weighting for work done, in the form of average marking from historic tests, prior to March 12th is substantially greater than that for online engagement and End of Term tests and projects.

- The End of Year Test/Project will be devised and marked by the class teachers. The method or format of assessment used (for example, written or electronic format) should take cognisance of students' accessibility to the mode chosen. The assessment format chosen should be accessible, as far as is possible, to all students in the class.
- The End of Year Test will be an "Open Book" test, meaning that students may use their books, notes or other materials to assist them in answering questions.
- The End of Year Test should be administered by Friday 22nd May. The intervening period, from today, should be used by teachers and students for revision purposes. Teachers and subject departments will have discretion to hold the test later than 22nd May in the interests of ensuring that students have adequate revision time. Students will be notified through their "Teams" of the date and time that tests are to be administered.
- We will make every effort to ensure that the method or format of assessment will be inclusive of students with special educational needs (SEN) and provide differentiated approaches to allow students with SEN to access the appropriate assessment mode and be adaptable to their particular context.
- Parents of students with special educational needs may act as readers/scribes during the administration of the test and may assist such students to engage online, if necessary.
- Through their "Teams" classes students will be provided with details of the material to be covered in the End of Year test, the mode of assessment and the timeframe for administration and completion of same.

Providing the report to students and their parents:

- The School report will be shared with students and parents in early June.
- All subjects for 1st and 2nd year students will be reported on in the school report using the Junior Cycle Descriptors: Distinction; Higher Merit; Merit; Achieved; Partially Achieved; Not Graded.
- All subjects for 5th year students will be reported on using the updated Leaving Certificate descriptors, H1, H2, etc.
- The 2nd Year reports may also include the following descriptors awarded for classroom-based assessments (CBAs): Exceptional; Above Expectations; In Line With Expectations; Yet to Meet Expectations.

- For 1st and 2nd year CSPE; SPHE; P.E. and Religion a Junior Cycle descriptor as outlined above will be allocated by the teacher using their professional judgement of each student's engagement during the school year.
- The report to be sent home will include comments for "Workrate" and "Behaviour" and teacher "free text" comments where necessary, including comments on online engagement since March 12th

As the school year does not finish until May 29th, all students are expected to continue to engage with their teachers online and submit work as requested. This work will be taken into account in the results they will receive in their school reports in June.

I wish all of our students and their families well in these unprecedented times.

Yours faithfully,

Jimmy Finn

Principal