

Educational Services

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Dear Parent/Carer,

CHANGES TO ASSESSMENTS IN THE SENIOR PHASE

This year, senior phase assessments (often referred to as prelims) will be delivered in a different way. The aim is to gather more reliable evidence of how young people are doing in their courses and to maximise time for teaching and learning. Noted below are some of the main changes.

- **Assessments are spread out over time giving pupils more time to prepare.**
- **A significant number of assessments will take place during class. This will ensure less disruption to day-to-day learning and teaching.**
- **A small number of assessments will take place in the hall. This will give pupils a chance to establish exam routines and etiquette.**

You will find a copy of the calendar for the year attached.

Alternative Assessment Arrangements

Pupils with alternative arrangements should check with their class teacher in advance of scheduled assessments. Their teacher(s) will confirm with your child where the assessments will take place. The alternative assessment dates, times and locations will also be displayed at the school office on the days where there are assessments, your child should check here if they are unsure. Alternatively, Mr Gardner will be available should your child have any questions regarding arrangements.

Evidence

The evidence gathered from the assessments, alongside class tests, coursework, and homework, will provide teaching staff with an overview of your child's progress. It is important that your child prepares fully in advance of each assessment and, where challenges may arise, they speak with their class teacher who will offer the necessary support and advice.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend any of their assessments, please inform the school office outlining the reason for their absence and the approximate length of time that they may be off. On their return to school your child should arrange a time with their class teacher to sit the assessments they have missed.

Please get in touch with Mr Gardner, our SQA Co-ordinator, if you have any questions.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Byrne'.

Mary Byrne
Head Teacher