

3rd Year End of Year Assessments - May 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and 3rd Year Students

1st May 2020

What will the 3rd years' Summer Report look like?

We are adhering as closely as possible to the format that our students would have expected to receive in their results from the State Exams Commission. Therefore;

- The final report will state the relevant level for the subject (Higher/Ordinary/ Foundation)
- The report will state the grade descriptor for Junior Cycle subjects and the grade result for Junior Certificate subjects, according to each subject (3rd years have completed a mix of subjects in the old and new assessment model)
- The report will be issued from the school and record academic subjects only.
- The report will state the results of Classroom Based Assessments to date (where it has been possible to complete the CBAs)

What is the HFSS rationale for arriving at this format of assessment for 3rd years?

COVID-19 and the Junior Certificate: All schools closed on 12th March 2020 due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Department of Education and Skills will award all third year Junior Cycle students a certificate of completion of the Junior Cycle. The Department of Education and Skills have stated that these will be issued in the next school year. On 29th April, the Minister for Education, Joe McHugh TD, gave schools the autonomy to decide whether to run school-based assessments and what form they take. A circular issued to schools further stated that this assessment had to be completed by 29th May 2020. This circular is available to read in the press release;

<https://www.education.ie/en/Press-Events/Press-Releases/2020-press-releases/PR20-04-29.html>

The following day, on Thursday, 30th April, the principals of the four post-primary second-level schools in Newbridge (HFSS, PSS, Newbridge College and St. Conleth's College) met to consider how best to meet the needs of our students and staff. Being acutely mindful of the ongoing lack of certainty for our teachers, parents and students and for the wellbeing of all concerned, we agreed a common assessment criteria for all 3rd years in our schools.

What is the assessment criteria for the Final Report for 3rd years?

The final criteria will be used to determine the 100% final grade or grade descriptor;

- 70%** Continuous Assessment (consideration of students work to date - 2nd and 3rd Year (2nd year Christmas and Summer tests, 3rd year November and Mocks assessments) This grade average will be collated by the senior management team.
- 10%** Engagement with school work since 12th March 2020
- 20%** Final Assessment: Assessment tasks will be sent to students from their teachers.

What is the Final Assessment?

Completed tasks are to be submitted to teachers by Friday, 22nd May. This gives students the flexibility to get the assessment completed according to the timetable, OR at any stage during that week that suits them and their family circumstances best. The final date for the submission of assessments will be FRIDAY, 22nd MAY.

The format of the assessment task will be communicated to students by individual subject departments. The *suggested* timetable below gives a framework guide to support the 3rd year students in scheduling their allocated time for the assessments over the week. **However, these assessments can be completed and submitted at any stage during that week.**

	Timetable framework for submission of final assessment task for each subject area				
	Monday 18 th May, 2020	Tuesday 19 th May, 2020	Wed. 20 th May, 2020	Thursday 21 st May, 2020	Friday 22 nd May, 2020
Morning	Irish	Geography	English German	Business	Science
Afternoon	Maths	French History		Home Ec Art Music	Spanish

What should we do if we are having any issues with online engagement for school work?

****It is very important that parents/guardians contact the school to let us know that there are issues with engagement for online learning.**

Please contact **reception@holysfamily.ie** immediately if this is an issue. We will work to support our students and their families to the absolute best of the school's ability. However, this is a shared responsibility between the parents and the school. We need your active involvement to address any issues arising**

What happens after Friday, 22nd May for 3rd years?

School will finish for our 3rd years on 22nd May 2020. This gives the school and staff the time to collate and finalise all reporting details by 29th May 2020.

Will I get a refund for fees already paid to the State Exams Commission?

HFSS does not issue refunds for state exam fees as the fees were not paid to the school, they were paid to the SEC. We received the following clarification from the State Exams Commission;

Junior Certificate/Cycle Fees : Students will not be required to pay an examination fees to the SEC in relation to the 2020 Junior Cycle examinations, the SEC will be issuing a refund, in due course, to all students who have already paid. www.examinations.ie

We know that this has been an unprecedented experience for all and for many, a very challenging time. We look forward with determined optimism to a fresh new start with Transition Year when we will all return to school. In the meantime, stay safe and stay well at this time of national crisis. We will continue to follow our school motto, held dear to us all in HFSS 'To Be Family and To Build Family'.

With sincerest regards.

S. Allen
Principal

K. Aherne
Deputy Principal

K. Kissane
Deputy Principal