



Holy Faith Secondary School
Belgrove Road
Clontarf
Dublin 3

Telephone: 01 8331507
01 8332754

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Dear Parents/Guardians

The last few weeks have seen the 6th years returning to school albeit for remote learning and they have on the whole engaged positively with their on line classes. The initial uncertainty around the proposed return to school of 6th years only has been a significant stressor for students and the lack of any definitive plan for the return of 6th years for face to face teaching has only served to heighten the stress felt by students and their parents/guardians.

Clearly the Mock Examinations as planned will not be going ahead next Monday 1st February. The scheduling of the exams normally allows for students to take a break over mid-term and return energized for the next half term. The next half term is of 5 weeks duration and we are as yet unclear as to if and when 6th years will return to the classroom. If there is to be a return to school during that time it would be best to focus on teaching and address the learning deficit that exists. There are also Health and Safety concerns of having students sitting in the hall for an extended period of time and there not being the usual level of supervision on account of social distancing.

Taking into account the above, the Mock Examinations will not now be going ahead. The papers do not reflect the talked about additional choice for students in June and in setting questions covering the entire course, the learning deficit would only be emphasized. In taking this decision now, it is hoped to give students some clarity and certainty regarding the school examination. The school will purchase the Mock Examination papers and teachers may use them to set students timed assignments and assessments. A number of students have mentioned the possibility of predicted grades and would the lack of a Mock Examination have an effect. Mock Examinations are not set by the SEC and are therefore not moderated. Last year teachers were specifically directed not to take these result into account when working on predicted grades.

I hope the decision regarding the Mock Examinations together with some of the observations above will give some measure of reassurance to students and their parents/guardians and alleviate some of the stress and anxiety all are experiencing.

Yours sincerely



Deirdre Gogarty
Principal