



**Holy Faith Secondary School**  
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11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Minister of Education and Skills on Friday last recognised the need to facilitate Leaving Certificate students of 2020 to advance to further or higher education or the world of work. To achieve this in the current circumstances, he is offering a system of calculated grades. Students will receive a State Certificate of Calculated Grades in each subject. It will have the same status as Leaving Certificates in previous years. Students will also have the opportunity to sit the exams at a later stage when it is safer to do so.

What is a calculated grade?

A Calculated Grade is a grade that can be provided to students following the combination of school information about a student's expected performance in an examination and national data available in relation to the performance of students in examinations over a period of time.

A calculated grade results from the combination of two data sets:

1. A school-based estimation of an overall percentage mark and ranking to be awarded to a student in a particular subject.
2. Data available from the State Examinations Commission this includes data on past performance of students in each school and nationally.

The combination of these data sets through a process of national standardisation can determine the grade to be awarded to each student in each subject, thereby resulting in a calculated grade.

In addition to the Calculated Grades process, provision has also been made for a three stage Appeals Process involving:

1. A series of checks that data were correctly entered at school level and correctly transferred to the DES
2. A review that the data were correctly received and processed by the DES
3. If a candidate remains dissatisfied after notification of outcome of the above two stages, verification of the DES processes by independent appeal scrutineers

Finally, and in the spirit of fairness to all Leaving Certificate students, the option of sitting the Leaving Certificate examinations when it becomes feasible to hold them remains open to all students.

In order to maintain the integrity of the above process, I would strongly advise students, parents and teachers not to engage in any discussion regarding the estimated student's overall percentage mark. The estimated percentage mark is not the final grade, as there is a system in place to ensure the grades are based on further data analysed at school and a national level. Students should be assured that no single grade or result will determine the estimated percentage mark. We will have an assembly with students tomorrow, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May.

The students will have an assembly at 2.00pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May during which a virtual presentation of graduation certificates will take place. Parents and other family members are also invited. I would hope that we can have a real life graduation in the autumn when conditions allow.

In the meantime, I would like to thank sincerely, all the students for their engagement, perseverance and good humour over the past few weeks. I know they feel they have missed out on some of the usual activities associated with the final week of school but I am confident that they have created many unique and lasting memories and strengthened their bonds of friendship in very challenging times. Our Guidance Counsellor, Ms Peppard, continues to be available, to both parents and students.

I look forward to our celebration next Friday,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Deirdre Gogarty". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Deirdre Gogarty  
**Principal**