

Dear Leaving Certificate Students,

The Minister for Education and Skills Joe McHugh T.D. announced the postponement today of the 2020 Leaving Certificate.

All students are to be offered the option of receiving Calculated Grades for the subjects they are studying and the alternative of sitting the 2020 Leaving Certificate examinations at a date in the future when it is considered safe to hold the examinations.

We understand that this is a challenging time for everyone in our school community but most of all for you, our students, who are at the heart of everything we do here in 'Hammies.'

While the announcement brings some clarity to this situation, it must also raise many questions and elicit different responses- relief, stress, uncertainty- from all of you in Sixth Year and your families.

The following links to the Department of Education and Skills website may be useful in providing clarity about this new system of calculating grades:

<https://www.education.ie/en/Press-Events/Press-Releases/2020-press-releases/PR20-05-08.html>

<https://www.education.ie/en/Learners/Information/State-Examinations/a-guide-to-calculated-grades-for-leaving-certificate-students-2020.pdf>

We will keep you informed of any updates from the DES as they occur.

You are a magnificent group of young men and we extend our congratulations (and our thanks) to you for making the last six years in Hamilton High memorable for yourselves and for all of us who have been privileged to work with you, particularly during this extraordinary period in the last two months.

We will meet again as a group in the near future to celebrate your time with us when it is safe and responsible to do so. Until then, rest assured that the school Pastoral Care team and other support services are available to you in the coming weeks and months if you wish to avail of them.

Le meas,

Eugene O'Brien  
Principal  
Hamilton High School Bandon