



25th June 2020

Dear Parent/ Guardian and Student,

The last 13 weeks of your 5th year education was a roller-coaster to say the least. The entire system rightly wrapped itself around the immediate issue of the Leaving Certificate students 2020 and trying to develop a system to meet their unique situation. The reality is that 5th year is when the curriculum is covered whereas the last 13 weeks of 6th year is largely, though not exclusively, revision and examination preparation. Therefore, while you endeavoured to keep working and teachers sent work it was simply not the same. We were very aware that home circumstances had changed with stressful situations being reported to us as well as limited access to internet and also to devices at times. The effort to self motivate was a very difficult one and while you are encouraged in our school culture to be independent learners it is not something that you need to have fully developed until third level generally. So well done for doing your best, it is all we can ever ask of you and if you feel you didn't do your best you have time to catch up.

Message from Réaltóir Kieran

It has been a very positive year overall for our 5th year students. It started with many changes which students had to adapt to: new class groups, new friends, new teachers, some new subjects, new Caomhnoirí, and most of all the Leaving Cert. syllabus which was new to all!

As can be expected, it took a big effort from each individual student, to engage both academically and socially in this new territory. We had a wonderful bonding day in October, where the sun split the stones as our new class groups got better acquainted in the Zoo! The day was also a fantastic opportunity for Caomhnoirí to get to know their students better, out of the classroom environment.

November brought with it the Christmas exams, an important focal point on the 5th year calendar. There were some surprises, (good and bad) when the results

came back. For many it was the full realisation that the level of work which produced good results in Junior Cycle would not suffice at Leaving Certificate and students dug deep and reassessed their study regime and planned a solution.

In January and February things were really coming together for our 5th year class. Students were getting to grips with the workload required for the upcoming summer exams....and the rest, as they say, is history! If I had to pick one thing that stood out for me this year from 5th year, it's how supportive and lovely the students were to each other. Everybody knows how competitive it can be in a young person's world, where it can be *every man for himself!* My experience did not reflect this. I worked with caring, kind, funny supportive young people, who '*had each other's backs*'.

I'll conclude by saying, we never in our wildest dreams could have contemplated how this academic year would end. But here we are! Perhaps one thing we can take from this is that, as you embark on your final year in CNI, do your best work every day in school and at home, and do not put off today what you think you might cram in the tomorrows ahead.

Life is precious!! So have a wonderful safe, summer break 5th years, and looking forward to seeing you all in September.

I. Kierans

Summer Opportunity

It will be very important that students do some study over the summer holidays. Perhaps pick one or two subjects that need most work and spend some time each week on topics already covered. To begin 6th year we will have early 6th year exams and we will do our best to support them in catching up. At this point we hope for a full return to school and that is indeed what, as a school leader, I am planning for however we cannot rule out blended learning where some home-IT-supported learning might be required. We also expect the traditional Leaving Certificate to go ahead for 2021 but again it is not beyond the realms of reason that a situation of School Calculated Grades could happen again. To support students and parents for all possibilities it is essential that we meet all 6th year students and parents in early term 1 and support you. Date to be confirmed.

Reports

In these exceptional times our teachers supported our daltaí and the work of the Department of Education in the transformation of both the Junior Cycle report and the Leaving Certificate system. Schools were given full responsibility for

accrediting the achievement of third year students and also required to up-skill, administrate and deliver the brand new Calculated Grade system for our sixth year daltaí which concluded on Friday 19th June. Consequentially to support the work for the state exams, we had to reform our reports for your child. This included:

- Providing a 'Covid-Period' report for your child, rather than end of year exams.
- Giving teachers the opportunity to use standard comments formulated by our Teaching and Learning Coiste. (Note: These were created to try to avoid any undue stress in homes by being as positive as possible in relation to student engagement)
- Providing some guidance for students to complete as much of the assigned work over the summer, where possible.

We are very proud of the term based reports we provide each year. Where a significant number of schools provide standard comments year round, CNI has always customised our reports with much greater detail. This will continue to be our standard in the coming academic year.

Assessment

We are of course very aware of the absence of an end of year assessment. We are also acutely aware of the gaps in learning that have occurred during this period of distant learning. For this reason, we are already planning a formative assessment period early in the new year that will help us understand the progress of our daltaí during the end of the 2019/2020 academic year and identify where students are at and how to support them getting to the next level.

Student Direct Costs

As normal the 6th year costs are due and the Board of Management met last week to review the Student Direct Costs and I am delighted that they have been able to streamline and reduce where possible (please see attached which also shows the cost for last year as a comparison). The deadline for payment for these costs via Way2pay is 19th August 2020.

Please know that a lot of planning is going on behind the scenes to support the 2021 Leaving Certificate students. The 6th year return date is 27th August and we will keep you informed of any updates over the summer via text and

website. The Calendar is also on the website for you to view @ https://www.colaistenahinse.ie/images/pdfs/2020-2021/Calendar_20202021.pdf.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Iníon Mc Carrick

Iníon Mc Carrick

Student Direct Costs from Parents/Guardians for LMETB Schools for 2020/2021

(Senior Cycle 5th & 6th Yr)

Subject to ratification by LMETB

All costs subject to annual review by BOM

LMETB School/College	2020-21	2019-20
Details	Estimated Cost €215- For 5th and 6th year	€215- 5th Yrs €245-6th Yrs
Book Rental (per year)	80	80
Exams inc. Mocks*	20	Nil in 5 th yr as was loaded as bulk cost in 6 th year €30
Student Diary/Homework Journal	8 (Reduced by €2)	10
PPAI	8	8
Locker Rental/Replacement of Lock	NIL	NIL
Printing & Photocopying	22 (Reduction of €18)	40
Text to Parents	NIL (reduced by €2 as now part of Way2pay structure)	2
Co-curricular and Extra- curricular Activities Inc Lá Dearfachas, Dearfachas/RP	77	30
Optional Subject Materials	Some option subjects may have associated costs	Some option subjects may have associated costs
Lá Dearfachas	N/A	15
Dearfachas/RP	N/A	30

Proposed Total Contribution Collected for 2020/2021	€215 Note (Combined 5th and 6th year costs €430) (Reduction of €30 on 2019-20)	Note: Combined 5th and 6th year cost were €460

***Note: Reference to Mock exams refers to Mock examination papers only and not any external corrections that may occur**

***Students are required to have past examinations papers and this is not covered by above**

***In some subjects workbooks may be required where students must write in answers. These are not covered by above**

Signed:	Principal
Date:	