



Our Lady's Grove Secondary School

Our Lady's Grove, Goatstown Road, Dublin 14

Good afternoon

I have just finished an assembly with our 3rd Years where we discussed the finalised structure for how we will organise remote Mock Exams.

We discussed three issues. The first were the principles and the rationale which influence whether we should hold these exams. The JC is a unique experience where students are afforded the opportunity to test themselves in a pressurised environment. Throughout their professional lives there will be situations where they will draw on the experience gained and the skills developed. Regardless of whether there is a traditional exam in June, we want to afford them that formative experience.

We want them to get an independent third party's opinion of where they are at with their academic progress so they can use that formative feedback to diagnose the effectiveness of their work during this program of study.

Secondly, we discussed the practicalities of accessing completing and submitting their exams. We have considered a number of digital and in-person solutions. Any solution where students scanned or printed their own papers was not workable because of its reliance on homes having working printers and scanners. For this reason we will be sharing printable PDFs of the exams as per the timetable. I have created a video available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYO2DjpNoLI> which explains how the process will work. Once the students have uploaded their completed work to Microsoft TEAMS, we will print and distribute the exams to the correction company,

Thirdly, we talked about integrity. We hope that all students will be able to find an appropriate space at home to complete their exams. For the most part they will stick to the timetabled slots. If they are to get that authentic diagnostic, that I spoke of earlier, it is really important that they stick to normal assessment rules and time allowance.

I cannot predict what communications will emerge nationally over the next week or so but hopefully this provides some certainty for our students.

Warm regards
Colm Dooley