



Our Lady's Grove Secondary School

Our Lady's Grove, Goatstown Road, Dublin 14

Good afternoon

I have just finished an assembly with our 6th 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 LC 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. In the interests of retaining as authentic an experience as possible we have decided that each student will collect their exam papers for the day from the school in hard copy. This service will be available between 7am and 8am. The papers will be in envelopes. From the second day the students will return their papers from the previous day in the same sealed envelope. Students or parents will not need to leave their cars. We will deliver and collect to the car window. Any solution where students scanned or printed their own papers was not workable. Any solution where the students are not hand writing or having to read their exam paper from a screen is not authentic enough.

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 not need digital devices and 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. It might help if parents assist with finishing exams and sealing envelopes.

I cannot predict what communications will emerge nationally over the next week or so but hopefully this provides some certainty for our students. Should there be individual situations where this structure presents problems we have already communicated to the girls how to address it.

Warm regards

Colm Dooley