

St. Oliver's Community College

Rathmullen Road, Drogheda, Co Louth

Tel: 041 9838390 Fax: 041 9835100

Email: socc@lmetb.ie Website: www.socc.ie



May 14th, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to give all fifth-year students and parents/guardians a clear picture of what will happen between now and the end of the school year.

I have included a Q & A section with this letter that outlines how the arrangements will operate in St. Oliver's Community College in detail. However, here is a summary of the key points:

- Students will **continue with work and/or online classes until Friday May 15th**.
- Students will **complete online assessments on Wednesday May 20th & Thursday May 21st**.
- Subject grades for the summer assessment will be compiled from the on-line assessment (if relevant) and the record of student learning throughout the year.

We have made this decision, as we believe this proposal has several benefits for students and families:

- Students now have a clear objective to work towards in the online assessments at the end of May.
- The combination of student learning and the short online assessment will provide a true picture of the student's performance this year.
- We have brought the end of the school year forward a week to Friday May 23rd. This will be of benefit to student well-being and will also allow for the assessment of Junior Cycle students to take place in May.

Fifth year teachers will continue to be in contact with their classes and over the coming days we will outline the format of the online assessment and how it will operate directly to students. We will also send students an example of an online assessment next week. This will allow them to practise and make themselves familiar with the types of questions they will answer on the online assessments.

Mr. Gates, year head for 5LCA remain available to answer any questions or queries you may have

We are asking for your support in relation to the online assessment. While we are not asking for strict supervision of the tests, we would be grateful if you could ensure that assessments are completed in a quiet area and that students complete all of the required assessments for each of the days outlined on the timetable.

We understand that work commitments may not make this feasible but we have provided a long window for students to complete the assessment on each day and we are sure students will give these assessments their best effort.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with the school should you have any questions or queries on this matter. Although the school office is closed, you can still contact the school via email at socc@lmetb.ie.

Regards,

John Halpin

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FAQS ON SUMMER ASSESSMENTS 2020

Are the summer assessments going ahead?

Yes. 5th year students will complete a summer online assessment in most subjects.

What will be included in the summer assessment?

Grades for the subject assessments for each student will be compiled from:

- On-line assessments for most subjects* that will take place on Wednesday May 20th & Thursday May 21st.
- Record of student learning (this will include coursework, tasks, tests, practical/project work and other work completed through the year)

Online assessments

What is an online assessment?

An online assessment is a short, multiple-choice test that students will complete during the period, Monday May 18th – Friday May 23rd. Students complete the test online, either via a PC, Laptop, Tablet PC/iPad or mobile phone.

How will my son/daughter access the online assessment?

Students will log on to the school website socc.ie on each day of the assessment. A link to summer assessments will be on the website and students will click on the link for the subjects they are doing.

Students then must enter their school email log on details and password to access the test.

(If your son/daughter does not have access to their school email, please click on the link to request a password reset. Click [here](#).)

There are no start times given on the assessment timetable. What time do the online tests start?

For 5LCA students, the tests will go live on Wednesday May 20th at 930am. They will remain open until 9pm on Thursday May 21st. Students can complete the assessments at any time during the two days. They can choose to complete them all in one day or space them out across the two days – whatever suits your circumstances best.

Exams can be started at any time in the window listed above. We recommend that if students are working in the evening, they start their final assessment at 8pm, to allow them time to complete the assessment before it closes at 9pm.

How long will it take to finish an online test?

Online tests should take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

How many online assessments will my son/daughter have to do in a day?

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That depends. They can choose to complete them all in one day or space them out across the two days – whatever suits your circumstances best.

Do all of the online assessments have to be completed one after another?

No. Students can take a break between exams. Breaks can be as long as a student requires.

My son/daughter does not have a laptop. Can they still do the online assessments?

Yes. All online assessments can be completed on a mobile phone.

If possible, students might be given priority to working on a laptop/PC/tablet PC for the period of doing their assessments on that day as many of the questions will include graphics which are better seen on a larger screen. Once the assessment is completed, students will not require the device for the rest of the day.

Does my son/daughter only need the IT device for the test?

No. We recommend that for all online assessments, students have a pen and paper to take notes or make calculations before submitting an answer.

My son/daughter has never done an online test before. Can they see what a test looks like?

Yes. We will email all students with a sample test that they can use to practise on and get familiar with the types of questions asked.

My son/daughter has resource support in school. Do they get more time in the exam?

The time to do the exam is unlimited so students can take as long as they need to complete the test. They must complete the exam in one sitting as they cannot save answers and return to the test. The suggested time of 30 minutes is an approximate time and students might take shorter or longer to complete the assessment. The time taken to complete the assessment has no impact on the grade.

Do I have to supervise my son/daughter taking the online assessments?

While we are not asking for strict supervision of the tests, we would be grateful if you could ensure that assessments are completed in a quiet area and that students complete all of the required assessments for each of the days outlined on the timetable.

We understand that work commitments may not make this feasible but we have provided a long window for students to complete the assessment (930am – 9pm) on each day. We feel this will give students the opportunity to perform at their best and have their achievements recognised.

What if my son/daughter has a technical issue when they are doing the test?

If an IT problem causes a student to lose access, they can re-enter and resubmit their answers.

If there is a more significant problem, your son/daughter should email their teacher about the issue. We will find a solution for them to complete the assessment. This process should not be a source of stress for any student.

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Student Well-being/School supports

My son/daughter is going through a difficult time at the moment. Is there anyone I can contact?

Absolutely. If your son/daughter is having difficulties with their studies, they should contact their teacher(s) and explain the situation. Alternatively, they may feel more comfortable contacting their tutor who will have a broader understanding of issues across different subjects.

If there are particular issues in relation to your son/daughter's well-being, our Guidance & Counselling Department are available for contact.

Guidance Counsellors

Ms. G. Byrne – gbyrne.soc@lmetb.ie

Mr. J. Farrelly – jfarrelly.soc@lmetb.ie

Ms. F. Dunne – fdunne.soc@lmetb.ie

Ms. T. McConnell – tmccconnell.soc@lmetb.ie

If your son/daughter has been working with the School Completion Programme, the SCP staff are also available for contact.

School Completion Programme

Chris Menary – cmenary.soc@lmetb.ie

Aisling Pierce – apierce.soc@lmetb.ie

Katie Donagh – kdonagh.soc@lmetb.ie