Alternative arrangements for State exams (incl postponement of Leaving Cert):

Minister for Education Joe McHugh has confirmed that the Leaving Certificate exams will start on 29 July, 2020. The format and formal timetable will be announced in the first week of June when details will be released for students, subject to public health advice.

Plans are being put in place for the postponed Leaving Certificate examinations to begin in the last week of July or early August, subject to public health advice.

Junior Cycle final examinations due to take place in June will be replaced by school-based exams and assessments held early in the new school year.

Practical examinations for Leaving Certificate students which were due to have been held in May are deferred. They will be rescheduled for late July/early August.

The new Leaving Certificate exam timetable will be confirmed in early June.

Asking Leaving Certificate students and their families to refocus their attention from June to August is not something we do lightly.

We know it will not be easy. However, it is the fairest way of assessing students and giving them certification of achievement in school and a pathway to higher and further education and training, apprenticeship or work.

The intention is to allow at least two weeks of class time, in school, before the Leaving Certificate examinations begin.

As part of the changes to the Junior Cycle, discussions will take place with teacher unions and school management to allow these examinations, linked Classroom-Based Assessments, Assessment Tasks and project work to be completed as school-based assessments early in the next school year.

Higher education sector implement alternative examination arrangements:

Further and higher education institutions will not be holding written, oral or practical assessments in examination centres during the Covid-19 emergency.

Universities and colleges have finalised alternative assessment arrangements, with options including online exams, written assignments or rescheduling.

While the education and training of all students is continuing, students expecting to graduate this year are a top priority.

Students who are not able to participate in alternative assessment arrangements will not be penalised. They will have opportunities to complete their studies at a later point in time.

Standards will be upheld, and the integrity of awards will be maintained. Qualifications achieved this year will be valued and regarded exactly as in any other year.
Deferral of HPAT results

This year’s HPAT-Ireland results are being deferred until after the leaving certificate examinations are complete, bringing them in line with previous years.

The Health Professions Admission Test – Ireland (HPAT – Ireland) is an admissions test used to assist with the selection of students into medicine and health professions degree programs.

This year’s exam was sat on 22 February. Results were due to be released in late June but the decision has now been taken to defer the results until later in the summer when the leaving certificate examinations are complete. The new date for the results will be confirmed at a later stage.

Gaeltacht courses:

Following consultation with health authorities and in the interests of protecting public health, having regard to the emergency measures being taken due to Covid-19, it has been announced by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht that no Irish language courses will be run in the Gaeltacht this summer as a result of Covid-19.

The Department has also confirmed that Gaeltacht households will not now be required to submit new engineers certificates this year under the terms of Scéim na bhFoghlaimoírí Gaeilge - as had previously been requested - and that the Department will be in contact with the households in question at a later date in relation to this.