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etb
Bord Oideachais & Oiliúna
Ath Cliath & Dún Laoghaire
Education & Training Board
Dublin & Dún Laoghaire

IMPORTANT - Leaving Certificate is Changing

24th September 2026

Attn: Fifth- & Sixth-Year Parent/Guardians 2026/27

Dear Parent/Guardian, Students,

I hope that you are well following what has been a positive return to school for the 2026/27 school year. I am writing to inform you of some really important changes to the Leaving Certificate for students in Fifth and Sixth year. This is part a phased national Senior Cycle Redevelopment programme (SCR).

There are a number of big changes involved in this – most significant is the fact that, for a number of subjects, students will no longer sit a 100% exam in June of sixth year. Instead, in these subjects, students will complete an **Additional Assessment Component (AAC), which will account for 40% of their final grade**. The remaining 60% will continue to be assessed through the terminal written examination in June of sixth year.

This is a huge change and something which will have an enormous bearing on students success in their Leaving Certificate.

The subjects affected are:

For 6th Year Students:	**For 5th Year students:**
• Climate Action and Sustainable Development • Business • Physics • Chemistry • Biology	• Climate Action and Sustainable Development • Business • Physics • Chemistry • Biology • Construction Studies • Geography • LCW (previously LCVP) • Leaving Certificate PE

The AAC is an ongoing project-based piece of work that students complete during a specific window of the school year. This must be completed within class time and under teacher guidance. Students are required to submit a final report for each AAC by the deadlines agreed to by the school. The provisional deadlines for this year are as follows:

Subject	AAC Provisional Deadline Date
Physics	**11th December 2026**
Business	**18th December 2026**
Biology	**6th January 2027**
Chemistry	**13th January 2027**
Climate Action and Sustainable Development	**12th March 2027**

In line with strict State Examinations Commission (SEC) requirements, teachers are required to verify student work at various points throughout the process. This is to confirm that the work submitted is authentically the student's own. It does not involve grading the work, the AAC is sent to the SEC for correction.

At this stage, your sons/daughters will have considerable information on AAC's from their subject teachers. We ask that all parent/guardians speak to their son/daughters in order to grow your understanding of what is involved. This is a massive change to the Leaving Certificate. With parent/guardian support, I believe that this is a change that our students will benefit greatly from.

We will be holding an information evening for parents on Thursday 1st October at 19:00 to explain these changes in more detail and to answer any questions you may have. Further details, including the links, will follow via text early next week.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please use the form link attached to submit your query

Form for SCR Queries and Questions

Yours sincerely,

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Senior Cycle Reform Co-ordinator

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