Information for Parents/Guardians: Leaving Certificate Additional Assessment Components (AACs) & Coursework

Dear Parents/Guardians, as part of the redevelopment of the Senior Cycle and the Leaving Certificate, several subjects will now include Additional Assessment Components (AACs). Please see **AAC Calendar** on the school website for coursework completion dates. Under the revised Leaving Certificate specifications, AACs account for a significant percentage of the final grade in some subjects and will be externally assessed by the State Examinations Commission.

What are Additional Assessment Components?

AACs are intended to allow students to demonstrate a wider range of skills including research, creativity, communication, practical ability, and critical thinking.

How will AACs & Coursework work?

Coursework and Additional Assessment Components (AACs) are completed during fifth and/or sixth year, depending on the requirements of each subject specification. Each year, the State Examinations Commission (SEC) issues subject-specific briefs or tasks outlining the requirements for the relevant assessments. Coursework and AACs form part of the Leaving Certificate examination and are completed as part of normal classroom teaching and learning.

Students are required to complete all coursework and AAC tasks in accordance with the relevant subject brief and under the supervision of their class teacher. Teachers will support students throughout the process, monitor their progress and authenticate the work completed. All work submitted must be the candidate's own individual, authentic and unaided work. It must be verified by the candidate, the class teacher and the school principal. Completed coursework and AACs are then externally assessed by the SEC rather than marked by classroom teachers.

As part of the authentication process, teachers must have ongoing oversight of a student's work from commencement through to completion. For this reason, coursework and AACs completed entirely outside the school setting, or outside a centre recognised by the SEC for examination purposes, may not be eligible for authentication and therefore may not be accepted for assessment.

Students who are undertaking a subject outside school, or who are considering additional tuition or external support in relation to their coursework or AACs, should consult with the school in advance. The school can only authenticate work where SEC requirements regarding supervision, monitoring and verification have been met.

Parents and students are strongly advised to discuss any external arrangements with the school before proceeding, to ensure that all coursework and AACs comply with SEC regulations and authentication requirements.

Role and Responsibility of the candidate:

Candidates must fully comply with the subject-specific coursework procedures and conditions outlined in the subject brief. All work submitted must be the candidate's own individual, authentic and unaided work. Candidates should maintain records of their research, drafts and work in progress to support the teacher authentication process and must complete the SEC authentication declaration confirming that they understand and have adhered to the Coursework Rules and Procedures.

Role and Responsibility of class teacher:

Regularly supervise and monitor candidate's work from commencement to completion. Authenticate candidate's work once satisfied that the work has been completed by the candidates themselves. Do not over-assist or over-direct candidates.

Non-Compliance with Coursework Rules and Procedures:

Submitting work that is not a candidate's own individual, authentic and unaided work is a breach of SEC coursework regulations. Examples of non-compliance include plagiarism, submitting work completed by another person, receiving inappropriate assistance from others, or using AI tools in a manner that is not permitted under the subject specification and SEC requirements. Non-compliance may also arise where a class teacher has not been provided with sufficient oversight of the candidate's work throughout the coursework process.

Breaches of coursework regulations can result in serious consequences, including loss of marks, the withholding of results in a subject, or other penalties determined by the State Examinations Commission. Any suspected breach of coursework rules and procedures will be investigated by the SEC.

How can parents/guardians support students?

Encourage steady progress rather than leaving work until deadlines approach. Help students organise study and project timelines. Encourage regular attendance and participation in class. Promote academic honesty and independent work. Familiarise yourself with Coursework/AAC Rules & Procedures available **here**.

Coursework/Additional Assessment Components form an important part of the revised Leaving Certificate and, in some subjects, contribute a substantial percentage of the final grade. Students achieve the best outcomes when coursework is completed steadily over time, under the guidance of their teacher, and in full compliance with SEC rules and procedures. We greatly appreciate the support of parents and guardians in helping students engage positively, honestly and consistently with their Coursework/AAC work.